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## Bombing raids may start next week

### UN mission is final hope of averting war

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN and America yesterday spelt out the military objectives and targets of an attack on Iraq, amid growing signs that the countries could be at war next week.

The ultimate aim would be to make sure that President Saddam Hussein could never recreate his weapons of mass destruction — and Pentagon officials believe that that could be achieved by a week-long bombing mission. Operation Desert Thunder would have four sets of targets: the Iraqi

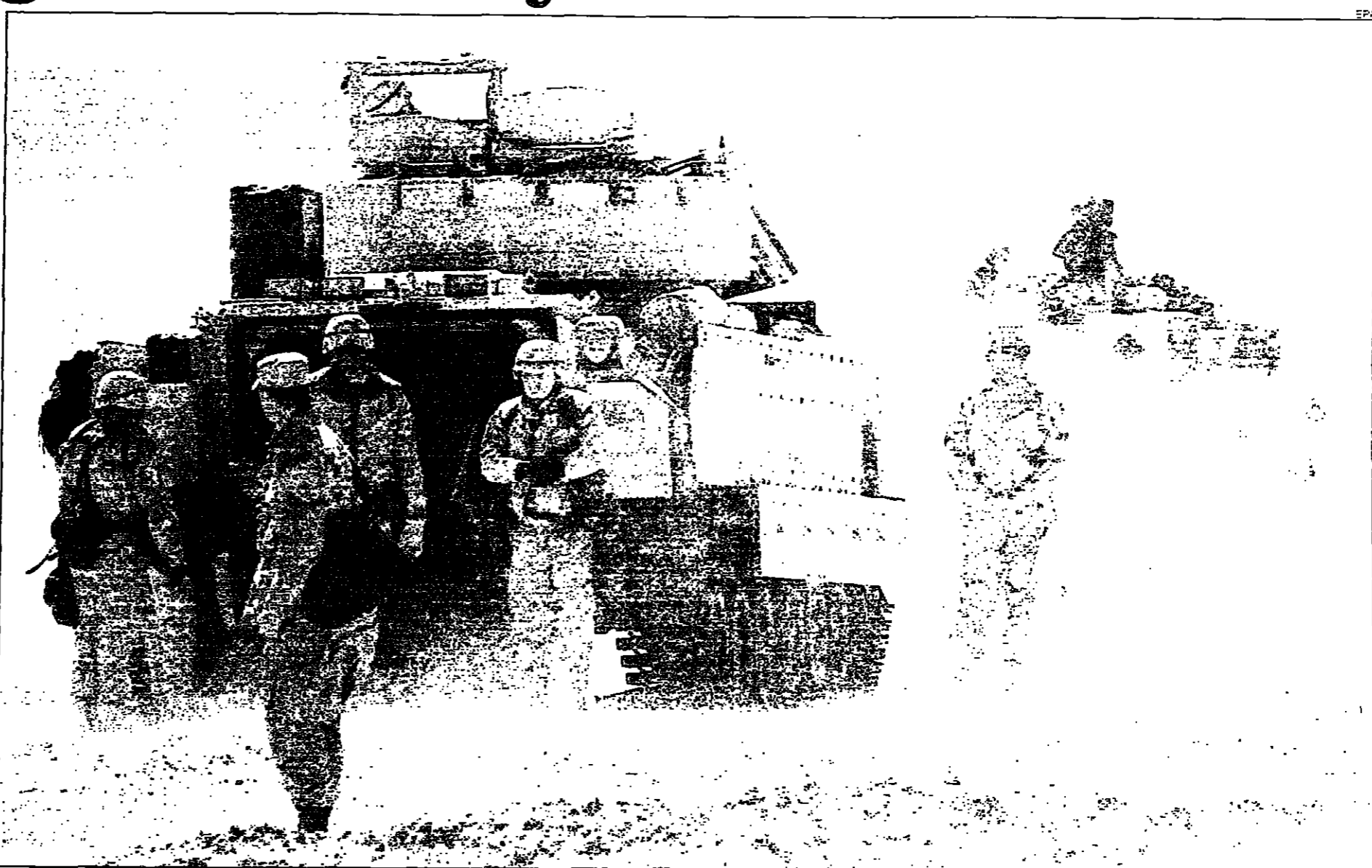
of pages, had been "very carefully" designed to avoid any release of chemical or biological agents into the atmosphere. However, the Pentagon has estimated that up to 1,500 Iraqis might be killed.

British defence intelligence chiefs have told the Government that Saddam still has a few biological and chemical warheads ready for installing on ballistic missiles — a "hardening up" of the assessment last November when the Cabinet Office's Joint Intelligence Committee said that there was only a "possibility" that he had such weapons.

The Ministry of Defence's intelligence department is now convinced that Saddam has hidden warheads containing anthrax and other toxic materials and that he has the capability of accelerating production of such weapons.

Last night, as the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan met the five permanent members of the Security Council to decide whether to make a final diplomatic mission to Baghdad, senior military sources said that the British forces in the Gulf were ready to strike against Saddam. General Sir Charles Guthrie, the Chief of the Defence Staff, also issued an unusual statement saying he had advised the Cabinet on the military options and that his advice had been followed. He was therefore "totally supportive" of the Government's position on Iraq.

President Clinton — who is receiving daily briefings on Saddam from the Director of the CIA — will address America from the Pentagon today after being briefed on the blueprint for the final targets, while in Britain, officials are to



American Marines take part in manoeuvres in the Kuwait desert yesterday less than 30 miles from Iraq's southern border as air staff finalised plans for a week of bombing

**Public opinion has not been readied for the risk of Iraqi retaliation with toxins or nerve agents so potent that tiny quantities could kill thousands?**

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Palace spies, page 17

air defence network: buildings and bunkers linked with the production of chemical and biological weapons; support facilities for poison gas production — including their protective Republican Guard units; and any military forces Saddam might use against neighbouring states.

A Ministry of Defence official said that the targeting plans, which run to hundreds

consider activating the special Cobra cabinet committee that deals with emergency and terrorist situations.

Amid further signs that Operation Desert Thunder could be only days away, steel-reinforced "tank trap" blocks were being installed around the American Embassy in London to deter terrorists. And the Foreign Office has made contingency plans to evacuate British nationals, including some embassy staff, from the Middle East.

A senior Ministry of Defence official said that the military objectives of any attack would not be to destroy Iraq or change the frontiers, but to diminish significantly Saddam's military capability, including his weapons of mass destruction, and to prevent him recreating such weapons in the future. The most important aim, the official added, was to force Saddam to agree to total compliance with UN resolutions so that UN weapons inspectors could carry out

their work unfettered.

Senior Ministry of Defence officials said yesterday that there was evidence that Iraqi agents were scouring the world to buy efficient commercial delivery systems for biological weapons — such as advanced crop spraying equipment. They were believed to have failed in that objective so far, but a close watch was being maintained.

At the same time Porton Down, the chemical and biological defence agency in Wil-

shire, produced a dossier on the relative toxicity of Saddam's weapons, including a warning that if he were to achieve a 100 per cent efficient delivery system, one teaspoonful of anthrax could kill 100 million people. Inhalation would cause a severe pneumonia-like illness, followed by death within five days.

At the moment, Saddam is believed to have about ten extended Scud ballistic missiles that could probably launch a biological or chemi-

cal warhead on a target up to 400 miles away. However, defence intelligence chiefs have told the Government that they do not believe Saddam would launch such an attack. For one reason, it would provide proof that he possessed weapons of mass destruction — which he has denied — and for another, it would lay Iraq open to a massive American attack.

The intelligence chiefs said that the "remote possibilities" that Saddam might turn

to non-conventional weapons, the terrorist option was the most likely.

RAF crews preparing for possible air raids over Iraq have not been vaccinated against biological or chemical warfare, although anti-nerve gas tablets and anthrax vaccine have been sent to the Gulf. MoD sources said that RAF aircraft had special filtration systems that would trap anthrax spores or nerve agents and prevent them getting into the pilots' air supply.

### Fears of privacy law 'quashed'

The Government claimed to have quashed the threat of a "back door" privacy law by announcing changes to its human rights legislation. In a move described by the Conservatives as a "monumental U-turn", Jack Straw announced amendments to the Human Rights Bill. Page 4  
Leading article, page 21

### 206 die in air crash

All 197 passengers and crew were feared dead after a Taiwanese airliner crashed into houses as it tried to land at Taipei. Nine people on the ground died. Page 15

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## Adams fury as Sinn Fein faces expulsion today

By MARTIN FLETCHER

GERRY ADAMS erupted in fury last night as the British and Irish governments prepared to eject Sinn Fein from the peace talks today.

"I am absolutely pissed off with trying to make this thing work and those with no interest in making it work seizing on two men being killed to exploit it and bring this process down," the Sinn Fein president said. His anger was clearly directed at the Ulster Unionists.

His outburst came at the end of a day when Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, presented the case for Sinn Fein's expulsion after two killings last week that Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC Chief Constable, linked to the IRA. Dr Mowlam was hamstrung by her inability to discuss the background to the second of those killings

because three men have been charged. However, she was supported by Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, who said that he trusted the word of Tony Blair, who briefed him late last week.

Sinn Fein said that it was being ejected solely on the word of Mr Flanagan. Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator, called the proceedings a kangaroo court and said that his party was being hounded out by "a lynch mob of Ulster Unionists led by the British Government".

Sinn Fein's late monopolised the talks on the day they moved to Dublin Castle, the former seat of British rule in Ireland, in what was supposed to be an attempt to encourage progress. In fact, George Mitchell, the talks chairman, spent most of the day in private meetings solic-

ing the views of the governments and parties involved.

There is little doubt that Sinn Fein will be out of the talks by this evening, but support for that decision will not be unanimous. The nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party, which had also been waiting to hear the evidence, remained conspicuously silent. The Women's Coalition objected that the governments could not act as both prosecutor and judge.

Sinn Fein's ejection risks a return to all-out IRA violence. The governments are likely to reply to that threat by making clear that Sinn Fein can be readmitted to the talks. Sinn Fein wants to be back by March 17 so that Mr Adams can attend the White House St Patrick's Day party, an invitation of enormous symbolic importance to nationalists.



### Stewart 83 gives England hope

A brilliant 83 from Alec Stewart could not stop England nerves from jangling yesterday as they struggled to reach their third Test victory target against West Indies of 225. When the second rainstorm of the day drove the players off just before tea England were 170 for four, with Surrey left-handers Graham Thorpe and Mark Butcher carrying England's hopes. Page 48

### Tagging of offenders to be extended

ONE thousand offenders have now been electronically tagged, the Government said last night as it prepares to extend monitoring linked to bail and the early release of up to 6,000 prisoners (Richard Ford writes).

The use of tags linked to a curfew order has increased after a slow start as magistrates have become more willing to use it instead of a community punishment. The scheme started in 1995.

Joyce Quin, the Prisons Minister, said last night: "These figures send out a clear signal to both the courts and the public that tagging works."

Electronic tagging is to be tested as a condition of bail in the spring and Jack Straw plans to grant up to 6,000 prisoners serving between six months and four years release two months early if they agree to be electronically monitored.

## Judge bars off-road drivers from green lanes

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A HIGH COURT judge yesterday struck a blow for environmentalists who have been campaigning to protect countryside "green lanes" from motorcyclists and four-wheel-drive vehicles.

Mr Justice Sullivan ruled that off-road drivers could use tracks and lanes classified as "Roads Used as Public Paths" (RUPPs) only if they could show they had been used by vehicles since before 1930.

The significance of the date is that the Road Traffic Act of that year for the first time made it an offence to drive a motorised vehicle along a public footpath or bridleway.

The judge dismissed a request by

the Land Access and Recreation Association, representing off-road users, to overturn a decision by the Secretary of State for the Environment last May to define a lane in a Somerset village as a bridleway reserved for walkers and horse riders.

The fact that a lane or track had been classified as a RUPP was not in itself proof that vehicles had a right of way along it, the judge ruled. The onus was on would-be users to provide evidence that this had been so in the past.

Andy Dunlop, a director of the Green Lane Environmental Action Movement (GLEAM), said: "We estimate this ruling could provide protection for up to 25,000 lanes classified as RUPPs from motorcyclists and four-

by-four vehicles. Up to now, off-road users have just assumed that they have the right to use such lanes and tracks. Now this will no longer be good enough."

Marlene Masters, a spokesman for GLEAM in Somerset, said: "I am pleased with this decision. Unless action is taken to restrict motorists damaging these fragile and currently unsurfaced ways, they will eventually become indistinguishable from the hundreds of thousands of miles of other Tarmac rat-runs."

It is estimated that between 5,000 and 10,000 miles of country lanes and paths, many used in the past for taking cattle to market, are designated as RUPPs, a classification created under the National Parks and Access to the

Countryside Act of 1949. Environmentalists have long objected to the vagueness of the classification, which appears to define "vehicular traffic" as covering everything from a horse and cart to a 40-ton articulated lorry.

Ramblers meanwhile, called for a change in the law on public access to common land after the same judge upheld a landowner's right to fence off eight footpaths through woodland on Ranmore Common, near Dorking in Surrey, which had been used by the public for decades.

The judge ruled that the paths could not be classified as bridleways because the public had not enjoyed their use "as of right", but only with the owner's consent, which he was entitled to revoke.

**Not even an Aborigine would expect such a good return.**

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# Anatomy lessons for the body politic

IS Peter Mandelson the Angel of the North? "Nice little pelvic bulge, and even though it's a bit of a strange shape, there's no question it's a man," says the sculptor. His description of the Angel does seem to fit. So when Mr Mandelson (Lab, Hartlepool) boasted yesterday that the Angel comes from Hartlepool, the implication was not lost on us.

Moments later, the snake-hipped dome supreme offered the nation a tour of his body. Sadly for Britain, this was not the lean, oiled, coiled, sleek, smooth, rippling, eel-like torso of the Minister without Portfolio himself. That remains forbidden fruit. It was the other body in which Mr Mandelson takes a

proprietary interest that he thought we might care to visit. Tory spokesman Richard Spring called it "a giant-size reclining statue". It will grace the Millennium Dome. We shall be able to visit its internal organs.

Mr Spring asked whether the body is "male, female or gender-neutral?" Mandelson invited us to see for ourselves. Visitors to the dome "will be able to travel round the body". He was sure they would find it instructive. What could he mean?

Try as they might, MPs seemed unable to take their minds off the body. Austin Mitchell (Lab, Great Grimsby), resisting any suggestion that Mr Mandelson (a southerner) could be an Angel of



the North, launched a vicious attack on the minister, his body, and southerners generally. Mr Mitchell is amiably cynical about his party's new Labour image. Tony Blair ignores him. Mr Mandelson hates him.

Mr Mitchell's question recalled a story Mandelson furiously denies. Visiting his new constituency, Mr Mandelson (whose idea of fast food would be to send his chauffeur into a Pâtisserie-Manger) had entered a Hartlepool fish-and-chip shop, eyed the mushy peas, and asked for a

reshuffles and stick with his dome: "Nobody has a better chance of making a success of it," said Mr Mitchell sarcastically, "than you." Nobody, he sneered, would be better at pretending he had made a success of it, if he had not.

By now, Mr Mandelson was pale as lead. "I am sure the Prime Minister will take your advice on this," he spat, silt-eyed, "as he does on so many other matters."

I was left to dream the impossible dream: that the Angel of the South reclining in the dome might, even at this late stage, be redesigned — and modelled on Peter Mandelson's own body.

Imagine the internal tour (through what portals, heav-

en preserve us even from speculating): "And this vast cavern is the spleen. Huge, isn't it?"

"Next on our itinerary are the cavernous bile ducts — watch it, madam, that green-black liquid is corrosive! That shrivelled nodule we just passed? That was the heart."

"Hurry along, now — hear the echo! This neck's made of brass — to the cranium: there's room for everyone in the frontal lobe reserved for fiendishly complicated plots — quite right, sir, the eyes in the back of the head are a most unusual feature..."

Only a daydream. I awoke just in time to see Mr Mandelson slide, hissing, from the chamber.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Cities compete for Welsh Assembly

Cardiff and Swansea are locked in a battle over the siting of the new Welsh Assembly, which will bring the victor prestige and increased business opportunities. Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, confirmed yesterday that the choice was between the Guildhall in Swansea or one of ten sites in the Welsh capital, the favourite being Cardiff City Hall. The announcement brought disappointment to three hopeful locations in North Wales — Wrexham, Mold and Abercynon in South Wales.

Mr Davies said: "The weight of support from around Wales, both from individuals and organisations, was overwhelmingly in favour of Swansea or Cardiff." He said that he hoped to make a final decision within two weeks, around St David's Day on March 1. Even before the referendum vote in favour of a Welsh assembly Mr Davies let it be known that he favoured Cardiff City Hall as his preferred location. The building was also named as the likely site in the White Paper for Welsh devolution.

### Bishop choice attacked

The Church of England's procedure for appointing bishops is flawed and causes delays, it was claimed. Christina Baxter, principal of St John's Theological College, Nottingham, called for a review of the Crown Appointments Commission, the body that privately recommends to the Prime Minister two names for appointments. Writing in the 1998 Church of England Yearbook, Dr Baxter says that secrecy builds mistrust.

### Oldest peer dies at 100

Britain's oldest peer has died in his sleep at a London nursing home, two days after celebrating his 100th birthday with a rare visit to the House of Lords. Lord Granville of Eye fought at Gallipoli and was once an aide to Ramsay MacDonald. Chris Stevens, a friend from the Royal British Legion, said that the peer had enjoyed his Lords visit: "It was rather a nice way to go out."

Obituary, page 23

### Office staff win £2m

Eight office workers will get £271,000 each after winning a National Lottery prize of more than £2.168,000. They will be back at work for their Newcastle upon Tyne property management firm after being granted a week's holiday to celebrate. But they will not be paid for the break by the company's two bosses — who are part of the syndicate. Although four employees were not in the scheme, they are "really happy for us", said one winner.

### Youth club rescue

Ten children and two adults from a youth club were winched to safety yesterday by an RAF Sea King helicopter after they were marooned on an island in the Dee estuary. The party had been walking along the Wirral coastline in an area exposed at low tide and were left stranded when the tide turned swiftly. They were left scrambling for a sheltered dry spot on a grassy outcrop 25 yards long in the middle of the estuary.

### Cut-price Sony at Tesco

Tesco is offering discounted Sony electrical goods in its continuing battle against brand-name "price fixing". The chain has bought £5 million of Sony goods on the "grey market" in Germany and is selling items including Playstations at up to £70 off. The move follows similar price cuts at Tesco on Nike, Adidas, Calvin Klein and Levi goods after the manufacturers refused to supply the chain with regular stocks.

### Boy saves dog from train

A teenager risked his life to rescue a dog from beneath a moving train. Youths threw the Yorkshire terrier, called Tilly, from a bridge on to the track outside at Patchway station, near Bristol, as a train began pulling out. Jonathan Flory, 16, ran from the platform and reached between the wheels to pull the dog to safety. One of Tilly's paws was severed, but the terrier was recovering last night. Jonathan, of Little Stoke, Bristol, said: "I could not watch it die."

### HIV warning on oral sex

Oral sex can transmit viral infections including HIV, the virus that causes Aids, according to a new report. Based on research by British doctors, the review found that, contrary to popular myth, oral sex was not safe sex. The report by Dr Sarah Edwards, of West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St Edmunds, in the journal *Sexually Transmitted Infections*, concludes: "The message is that you need to use protection for oral sex if you want to be certain not to get anything."

### Squeeze on pineapples

The price of pineapple juice is being pushed up by the failure of crops across Asia. The cost of imported juice will have risen by £1,050 a tonne by the end of 1998, an increase of more than 25 per cent in two years. A drought in Thailand, one of the biggest producers, has been compounded by the country's switch from cash crops to high-technology industry. Pineapple production there has halved in two years.

# Viewers furious at Rantzen and prostitute show

BY CAROL MIDGLEY AND HELEN RUMBELow

BBC viewers protested last night after a man offered a prostitute £1,000 for sex on Esther Rantzen's daytime debate show.

The discussion turned into a shouting match as the man waved the cash in the air and challenged one of the panel of prostitutes to sleep with him. Miss Rantzen took the £1,000 from him but returned it after walking around the studio floor with the pile of banknotes in her hand for several minutes.

Campaigners complained that the BBC was irresponsible and looking for cheap headlines by allowing a man to try to procure sex on television and by screening it at 5pm when children were watching. The protest comes as British debate shows have been accused of apeing the American Oprah Winfrey style in an effort to boost ratings.



Rantzen: BBC received flood of complaints

Miss Rantzen asked the man to donate the money to one of the charity volunteers present in the audience. He eventually gave it to a woman whose daughter was killed by a sex attacker and who now campaigns against pimping.

A BBC spokesman said: "We've had a small number of complaints, about 20, which compared to the size of the audience, about 3 million, is pretty small."

"People are prepared for debate on Esther's programme on issues of social significance. This was a hard-hitting, lively debate that dealt with public concerns over prostitution. It maintained an impeccable moral line and balance."

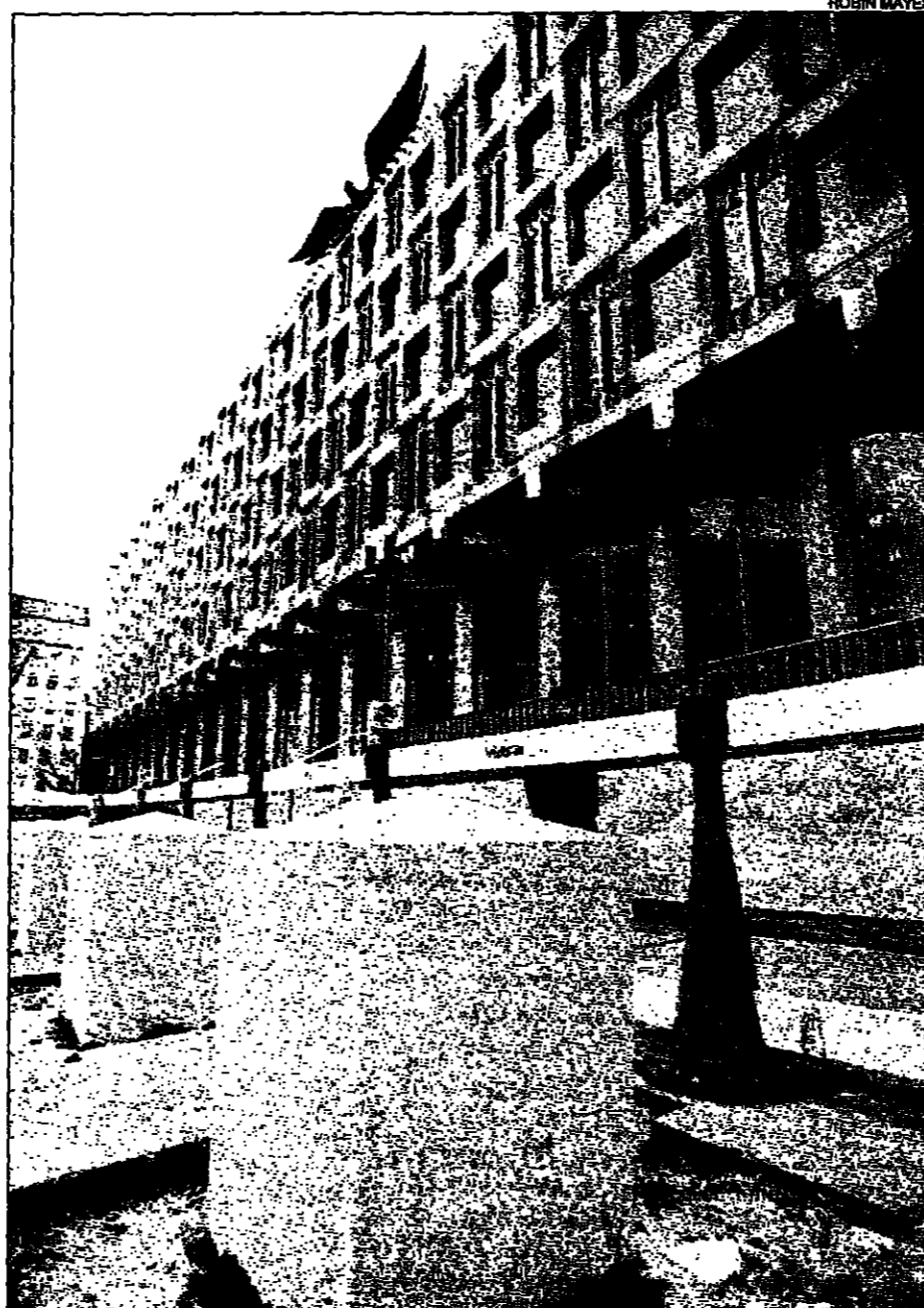
"It actually came down very hard against prostitution, but it was a lively debate. Esther is always in control."

"Children's programmes are on BBC1, and the alternative for them is there. BBC1 has more than two hours of children's programmes, and BBC2 has complementary programmes to do with DIY and cookery and including programmes like Esther's. You expect parental control to come into play."

"It was responsible programming handled well by Esther."

Children's programmes are on BBC1, and the alternative for them is there. BBC1 has more than two hours of children's programmes, and BBC2 has complementary programmes to do with DIY and cookery and including programmes like Esther's. You expect parental control to come into play.

"It was responsible programming handled well by Esther."



As tension with Iraq mounts, extra security measures are being taken at the American Embassy in London. Large pink stone blocks have been laid on the pavement, to reduce the possibility of damage in car bomb attacks

# Disabled fury at Harman's defiance

Campaigners reject concessions in attack over refusal to delay her benefits shake-up, writes Jill Sherman

HARRIET HARMAN was yesterday accused of turning disabled people into "militants" after she rejected demands by campaigners to suspend the government's review of disability benefits.

Lord Ashley, chairman of the cross-party Disabling Group emerged from a 45-minute meeting with Ms Harman to condemn her refusal to suspend the new assessment procedure for benefits which has resulted in hundreds of people having their payments cut in error.

"It seems to me that this Government is making millions out of six and a half million moderate disabled people," he said.

Lord Ashley was also furious that the social security secretary refused to guarantee that the government was not considering significant cuts in

disability benefits. "I am deeply dismayed that Harriet Harman has not given us these two assurances."

However Ms Harman did reassure the all-party group that disabled people would not be compelled to take a job as part of the Government's New Deal. Last week Ms Harman announced a significant concession following criticism of the benefits integrity project which reassesses payments for the disabled.

She said that if the scheme recommended cuts in benefits, this would be referred to an independent assessor. During yesterday's meeting she said that the second assessment would take the views of GPs

and carers into account. But Lord Ashley said after the meeting that this did not go far enough and the whole scheme should be put on hold.

The anxieties of disabled people have not been allayed," said Lord Ashley. "The review is causing great injustice with many bad decisions."

Lord Ashley promised he and his fellow campaigners would continue to press the Government to reconsider its position on the review.

John Denham, the pensions minister, described the meeting as "constructive and helpful" but said suspending the overall review was not an option. "It's very difficult to suspend this action, when we

know that perhaps £500 million a year may be going to people who don't have a legal entitlement to it," said Mr Denham.

"It's a very sensitive issue for us to tackle. We need to go forward with the project, but we must make the sort of changes we have already made. We have discussed others with the disability group today, to make sure the project runs properly."

The existing benefits system excluded too many disabled people, he said and it was important to focus on what disabled people could do rather than what they could not. A third meeting with the all party group has been planned

in two weeks time. Later Tony Blair reassured a number of organisations and charities representing the disabled and infirm that no reforms would take place without full consultation.

Mr Blair, Ms Harman, David Blunkett and Alan Howarth met representatives from Mencap, Scope, MIND, Radar and RNIB and other charities at 10 Downing Street following growing concern about its welfare reforms.

Mr Blair's official spokesman said that the Prime Minister gave "an absolute reassurance that the most vulnerable in society will be protected whatever decisions the Government makes."

He also told the group that the government would consult before proposals were put forward and before any proposals were implemented.

# BT pledge to Mandelson

Peter Mandelson poured scorn on suggestions that BT is about to withdraw £12 million of sponsorship for the Millennium Dome at Greenwich. The Minister without Portfolio told MPs yesterday that he had secured a categorical assurance from Sir Peter Bonfield, the chief executive, that he was committed to the dome. Libby Purves, page 20

## CORRECTION

A photograph accompanying an obituary yesterday of Carlo Alberto Chiesa was not that of Signor Chiesa, but of Signor de Marinis. A report on the Indian elections yesterday carried an incorrect photograph, of A.P. Vajpayee instead of Lal Krishna Advani. We apologise for the errors.

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سكندرية

# Father saves child choked by sunroof

Boy, 3, stood on control switch by mistake, reports Arthur Leathley

A BOY aged three was left hanging by his neck after he became trapped in a car sunroof. He was found minutes later by his father, who gave him the kiss of life and a heart massage.

The father, who had visited a florist's shop, had switched off the engine but left the ignition on so that the boy and his 18-month-old brother could listen to music on the car's sound system.

The boy clambered out of his child seat and triggered the electric sunroof by standing on the controls in the central console. As the sunroof opened, the boy pushed his head through the gap, then stood on the controls again, accidentally trapping his neck as the roof slid shut.

The boy was taken to Durham's Dryburn Hospital before being transferred to Newcastle General Hospital, where he was put on a life-support machine. The incident, which happened at Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, happened as the boy's father was buying a Valentine's Day gift on Friday.

The boy was allowed home yesterday. His father is believed to be a fireman, but the family does not wish to be identified.

Accident investigators found no faults on the Citroen Xantia car. A police spokesman said: "We hope this incident will serve as a stark

### MANUFACTURERS' CHANGES

The design of sunroofs has changed since the fatal incident. Manufacturers have introduced a number of safety features to prevent such accidents. One of the most significant changes is the introduction of a 'child lock' on the sunroof controls. This prevents children from being able to operate the sunroof while the car is moving. Another change is the introduction of a 'key-off' timer, which automatically closes the sunroof if the car is left with the engine running for a set period of time. Manufacturers also advise parents to always use child seats and to never leave children in a car unattended.

warning to other parents about leaving children in an unattended car with the power on. But for the father's prompt action and specialist training, the child could have died."

RC Paul Smithson, who examined the car after the child was released, said: "He has obviously stood on the console, triggered the sunroof to open then stuck his head out. Then he has stood on the switch again and the sunroof has closed on his neck."

"As he is only three years old, he probably didn't realise

and sunroofs. Changes introduced in new cars three years ago ensured that many windows and sunroofs could be closed only by pressing the control continuously. Previously a single touch of the control was sufficient, but changes were demanded after several cases of children and animals being trapped accidentally. In other vehicles, the windows stop operating if an object or person becomes trapped.

Citroen said last night: "We are extremely concerned to learn of this unfortunate accident and sincerely hope that the young boy makes a full recovery. In the interests of safety, the sunroof of the Citroen Xantia is designed to operate only when the key is in the ignition and turned on."

Roger Vincent, a spokesman for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, said: "Under no circumstances should a child be left in a car with the keys in the ignition, as appears to have happened in this case. There are too many things that can go wrong even when children are belted in."

Mr Vincent said there had been cases of children becoming trapped in electric windows, but some manufacturers had taken steps to prevent serious accidents. "In some vehicles electric windows will only operate if the keys are in the ignition."



# Duchess chips a bone in skiing fall

By Emma Wilkins

THE Duchess of York took to the slopes of Verbier with one arm in a sling yesterday after tripping over a ski pole and chipping her shoulder bone.

The Duchess, who had the injury X-rayed, has decided to continue her holiday with her daughters, Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie, despite some pain. "I've got it strapped up and I'll just ski with one stick," she said yesterday. "I'll just go slowly at the back with the girls. It's quite safe, really."

The Ski Club of Great Britain advises against skiing with one pole as it affects balance. Martin Rowe, senior trainer with the British Association of Ski Instructors, said: "When someone is carrying an injury like the Duchess's they tend to be more cautious and therefore not so much of a danger to themselves or other people."

The Duchess chipped her right shoulder bone while talking to Paddy McNally, a former boyfriend and her host at the resort in the Swiss Alps. "As usual with these things, I was just standing talking to Mr McNally and just turned round and fell on my ski stick," she said.

The Duchess, who is a keen skier, is planning to celebrate her former husband's 38th birthday in Verbier when the Duke of York flies out to Switzerland on Thursday.

The Duchess skiing in Verbier yesterday with one arm strapped up

# Health official was 'Jekyll and Hyde' who liked violence

By Shirley English

AT WORK at the health board, Clive Winter was diligent and respectable. But outside he masterminded a gang who carried out random attacks on strangers.

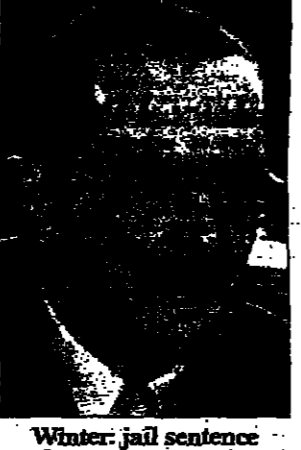
Clive Winter, 45, former secretary of Lothian Health Board, was yesterday jailed for 4½ years. He had taken pleasure in "gratuitous unmitigated violence", Edinburgh High Court was told.

It took a jury just over two hours to find Winter, of Edinburgh, guilty of taking part in three violent assaults between September 1996 and January 1997, all in Edinburgh. He was also convicted of conspiring with a member of his gang to break into the house of a colleague between September 1996 and February 1997. His gang included two junior health board staff.

Passing sentence, Lord Macfadyen said: "You have been convicted of a series of three episodes of deliberate, gratuitous violence unmitigated as far as one can tell by any comprehensible explanation, and one of conspiracy."

Yesterday Lothian Health Board said it was disgusted by Winter's behaviour. Trevor Jones, chief executive, said there was "genuine relief" that the case was now over. Winter was sacked for gross misconduct.

"Clive Winter was an extremely intelligent, quiet and a placid man in the office. I had



Winter: jail sentence for random attacks

for sale in a magazine; a random attack on John Brunson, a journalist, on the steps of The Scotsman newspaper offices; and a violent attack on a stranger walking down a street in Leith.

He was also found guilty of conspiring to break-in to the home of David Smith, a health-board colleague.

Yesterday Detective Constable Howard Shelley, of Lothian and Borders Police, said that Winter was a "modern-day Jekyll and Hyde" who was outwardly respectable, but had an unknown darker side. He said: "He carried out vicious attacks purely to gratify his own lust for violence."

Lothian Health Board has now introduced safeguards to ensure managers cannot use their influence over young, impressionable colleagues.

Earlier during the trial, Malone, who worked under Winter and was given immunity from prosecution, told the court: "I was scared if I said anything I would lose my job." He said Winter bragged that he would never be caught because of his position. Winter had denied all charges, lodging special defences of alibi and incrimination.

Graham Bell, QC, for the prosecution, disclosed that the verdict was announced that Winter had two previous convictions, one in 1976 of "shameless indecency with another man". In 1982 he was convicted of "loitering with intent".

no suspicions and would never have suspected him capable of committing violent crimes. I am surprised and disgusted that someone in his position as a care provider could have behaved in this quite appalling manner," he said.

Winter recruited Paul Davidson, 25, a former supply services manager, and Leslie Malone, 23, a management services manager, to his terror team. Both men testified against him at the trial. Davidson is serving a three-year jail term, imposed at Edinburgh Sheriff Court last year, for his part in the attacks.

The three attacks for which Winter was convicted, included a pistol whipping assault on Star Wars enthusiast Tony Chan at his home, after he advertised film memorabilia

# Muggers kill Briton in Kenyan game park

By David Orr in Nairobi and Stephen Farrell

A RETIRED Scotland Yard detective on holiday in Kenya was stabbed to death by muggers as he and his wife walked in a game sanctuary.

Roy Chivers was knifed in the chest as he tried to fight off robbers who stole the couple's two cameras in grounds adjoining the Aberdare Country Club in Nyeri, 140 miles north of Nairobi.

Mr Chivers, 51, a former undercover detective constable in the Yard's Directorate of Intelligence, was flown to hospital after the attack on Sunday, but doctors were unable to save him. He had worked as a Bank of England security officer since retiring in 1996 after 30 years in the Metropolitan Police.

"His widow, Sandra, 50, was injured in the hand. Last night she was staying with British High Commission officials in Nairobi as her father, Nor-



Roy Chivers, a former detective, was stabbed as he strolled with his wife in a country club's grounds



man, daughter Helen, 23, and son Steven, 20, planned to fly out.

Kenyan police said the couple, from Orpington, southeast London, were greeted by two African men who passed them, then struck from behind as they strolled in the 1,500-acre sanctuary in the foothills of Mount Kenya. The cameras were worth £2,000. Police using tracker dogs recovered one near by.

Kenya is visited by 100,000

British tourists each year but the industry has suffered heavily from an escalation in violence and civil unrest. The Kenya Association of Tour Operators has offered a reward of 50,000 Kenyan shillings (£650) for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the assailants. Kenya's Minister for Tourism and Wildlife, Henry Kosgey, said the Government would do all in its power to bring to justice those responsible.

# Nicky.

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# Ministers move to allay media fears on privacy

THE Government claimed last night to have quashed the threat of a backdoor privacy law by announcing changes to its human rights legislation to safeguard the freedom of the press.

In a move described by the Conservatives as a "monumental U-turn", Jack Straw announced amendments to the Human Rights Bill which should mean that newspapers cannot be prevented from publishing material by the courts provided it is in the public interest and the paper has observed the industry's code of practice.

The decision is a victory for Mr Straw, the Home Secretary, and Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, after a Cabinet wrangle with Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor. Lord Irvine predicted six months ago that the courts would develop a law of privacy after the Bill was implemented, but Tony Blair intervened to ensure that the fears expressed by newspapers were considered.

Downing Street said that self-regulation of the press would be entrenched in law, and that the courts would be deterred from developing a privacy law through the Bill or through common law. This, officials argued, was preferable to exempting the Press Complaints Commission (PCC) from the Bill, which newspapers had sought. The officials said that an exemption would have left papers open to a privacy law being created through the common law.

Lord Wakeham, chairman of the PCC, and the newspaper industry had voiced fears that its proceedings would be open to challenge in the courts because the PCC will be treated as a public authority under the Bill.

The amendments were agreed over the weekend in talks between the Home Secretary and Lord Wakeham. The press gave a mixed welcome. News International, owner of newspapers including *The Times* and *The News of the World*, said: "The whole industry will be pleased that the Government is taking the

**Amendments lay stress on public interest, report Philip Webster and Carol Midgley**

media's legitimate concerns seriously and is moving to protect freedom of expression in this way."

Piers Morgan, Editor of *The Mirror*, said: "The Prime Minister has insisted he does not want a back-door privacy law being introduced and I hope the detail of this amendment will ensure it does not happen."

Alan Rusbridger, Editor of *The Guardian*, described the amendments as a "clever political conjuring trick". He said: "It seems a slightly meaningless compromise which acknowledges that a privacy law is going to develop through common law and in some respects worsens the position which exists already."

The Bill incorporates the European Convention on Human Rights into British law. "I am pleased that the Government has confirmed its view that the system of self-regulation and the work of the PCC is better able to deliver the rights of the convention than any form of statutory law

of privacy," Lord Wakeham said. Mr Straw told MPs the amendments safeguarded the position of the press in a more comprehensive way than providing an exemption for the PCC.

The three main components of the amendments are:  
 an explicit provision that injunctions preventing publication of a story should not be granted "unless the respondent is present or represented". This should stop people seeking late-night injunctions to stop stories without the newspaper being able to represent itself;  
 a provision reminding courts dealing with privacy cases under Article 8 of the convention, which covers respect for private and family life, home and correspondence, that they must have particular regard to "freedom of expression" which is protected under Article 10;

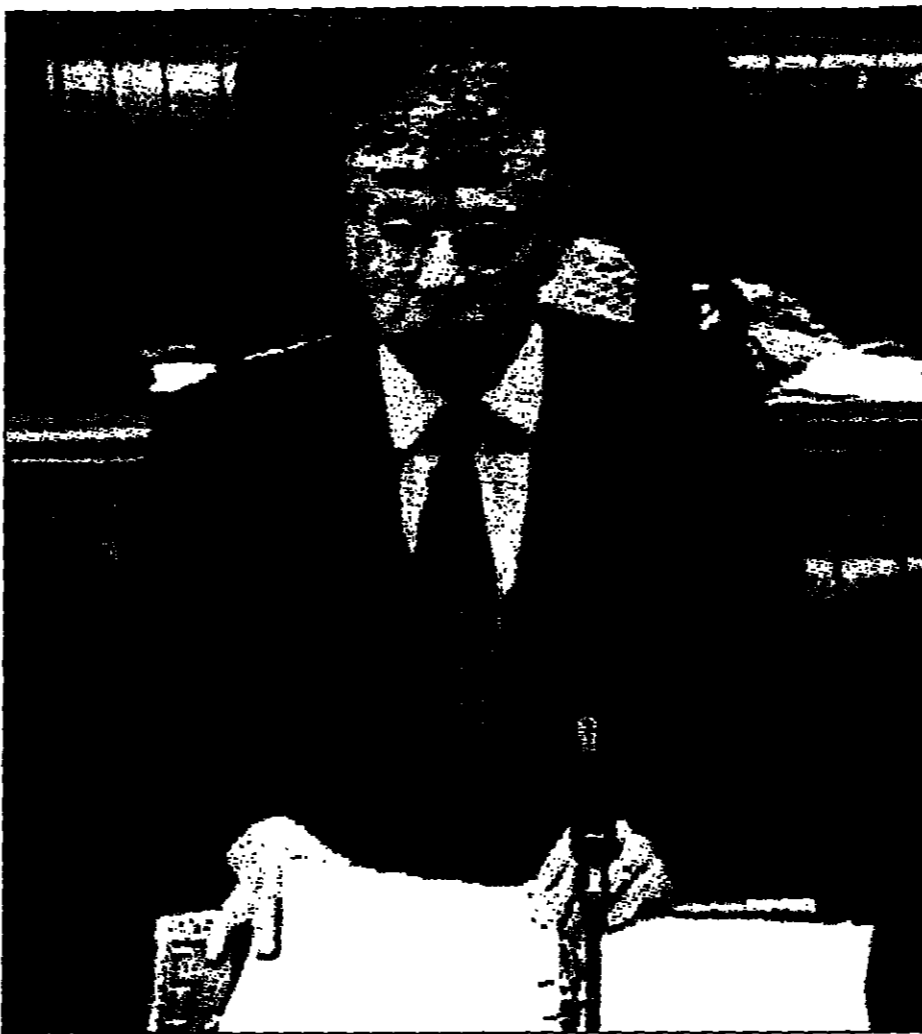
a requirement that a court hearing a case involving journalistic, literary or artistic material must take into account the issue of public interest, including whether the newspaper has acted fairly and reasonably and abided by the PCC's code of practice.

An official spokesman for the Prime Minister said that the third measure was a breakthrough because it would offer papers a wide-ranging defence in the courts provided they abided by the PCC code.

Mr Straw told the Commons that Article 10 had already been used to buttress freedom of the press against state efforts to restrict it, such as in the 1991 Spycatcher case. "We do not believe that the Bill will lead to the courts developing the common law in a way which inhibits legitimate press investigations into matters of public interest," he said.

Sir Brian Mawhinney, the Shadow Home Secretary, interpreted the changes as a slap in the face for Lord Irvine, whom, he said, had been "fanatically" in favour of allowing judges to produce a privacy law.

Leading article, page 21



Jack Straw announcing the Human Rights Bill amendments in the Commons yesterday

# Kaufman warns against pandering to the press

By POLLY NEWTON

THE Labour former minister Gerald Kaufman warned the Government yesterday not to rank freedom of expression for the press above respect for privacy.

Mr Kaufman, chairman of the Select Committee on Culture, Media and Sport, was speaking during a debate on the second reading of the Human Rights Bill, which will incorporate into British law the European Convention on Human Rights. His comments followed the Government's announcement that the Bill would be amended to allay media fears of a privacy law "by the back door".

He said that the press should not have greater legal protection than individuals. "If the amendment were drafted to that effect there would be many Labour MPs

who would be seriously disturbed by such a change."

Sir Brian Mawhinney, the Shadow Home Secretary, claimed that the promise of an amendment represented a U-turn by the Government. He said he was glad that ministers had listened to the views of the newspaper industry, but he added: "We will await the details of the amendment before claiming that the battle has been won and that the Government has been defeated on this issue."

Sir Brian said it had come as "something of a surprise" that the Government believed the Press Complaints Commission to be a "public authority". Such a definition would make the commission subject to the terms of the Human Rights Bill and therefore liable to court action by anyone who felt that his right to privacy had been violated.

"It is an entirely private body. It is in the ownership of the newspaper industry, funded by the newspaper industry and not fulfilling any statutory function, yet it is going to be a public authority."

Sir Brian said Parliament had always resisted the introduction of privacy laws. He acknowledged that press intrusion could harm people, but said: "The right to privacy should not become a cloak behind which to hide matters of legitimate public interest."

The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, promised to hold further talks before deciding whether to change the Bill as it applies to religious organisations. An amendment passed last week by the Lords would protect them from prosecution for acting according to their religious beliefs if in doing so, they contravened human rights law.

# Flood of legal challenges will put new law to the test

■ The Human Rights Bill goes far beyond the capacity to create a law of privacy and will affect almost every citizen in Britain when it becomes law, writes Frances Gibb

COURTS and tribunals are bracing themselves for a flood of challenges on everything from police behaviour to privacy when the Human Rights Bill becomes law.

The Bill affects every citizen and will reach into many areas of their lives. It enshrines the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law, so that judges can directly invoke its guarantees.

It has two key components: it will be unlawful for public bodies to act in a way incompatible with the European Convention. Second, all legislation will have to be interpreted by courts in a way compatible with the Convention. If that cannot be done, judges can declare the law incompatible and it will be up to Parliament to change the law. A fast-track procedure for doing so will operate.

Instead of going the long and costly route to Europe, which can cost £30,000 a case, people will be able to argue their rights in the courts. Judges will be able to award small sums (up to £10,000) in damages and invoke remedies such as quashing a public body's decision.

John Wadham, director of Liberty, says: "The Bill's two main effects will be prevention and cure." Proper scrutiny of new legislation should decrease the likelihood of the Government passing laws which infringe rights; and people who feel their rights have been abused — "unlawfully detained by the police, or unfairly stopped from organising or attending a legitimate protest" — will have some form of legal redress.

So far the chief focus of debate has been on the Bill's potential for courts to develop a right of privacy as cases come before them, although judges will have to weigh any

claim under article 8 with the competing right of freedom of expression under article 10. Yesterday Jack Straw laid some fears to rest with an amendment to the Bill aimed at stopping the press falling victim to late-night injunctions to stop publication.

The kind of case which would win a remedy is that of the actor Gordon Kaye, who found himself being photographed as he was lying in a hospital bed. But a public figure such as Robin Cook would be unlikely to stop disclosure of his affair.

The Bill also touches widely on areas such as family life. Cherie Booth, QC, told the Family Law Bar Association last week that the Bill would impose a positive obligation on the state to ensure people's "effective enjoyment of private life", which included husband and wife or equivalent, parent and child, relations between siblings, and between grandparents and grandchild.

For example, parents excluded from care proceedings successfully brought a case in Strasbourg enabling them to challenge a council decision restricting access to a child in care, she said. Children, too, were likely to have enhanced rights, she added. The European Court of Human Rights is also due to hear a case this year brought by a child who has been beaten by his stepfather with a cane.

Anne Owens, director of the group Justice, said: "Our system has always operated on a negative 'electic fence' approach: you are penalised for doing something unlawful. But instead, public bodies will have to look at their decisions, make them more transparent and ensure they comply with the Bill in both letter and spirit. It will encourage good practice rather than punish the bad."



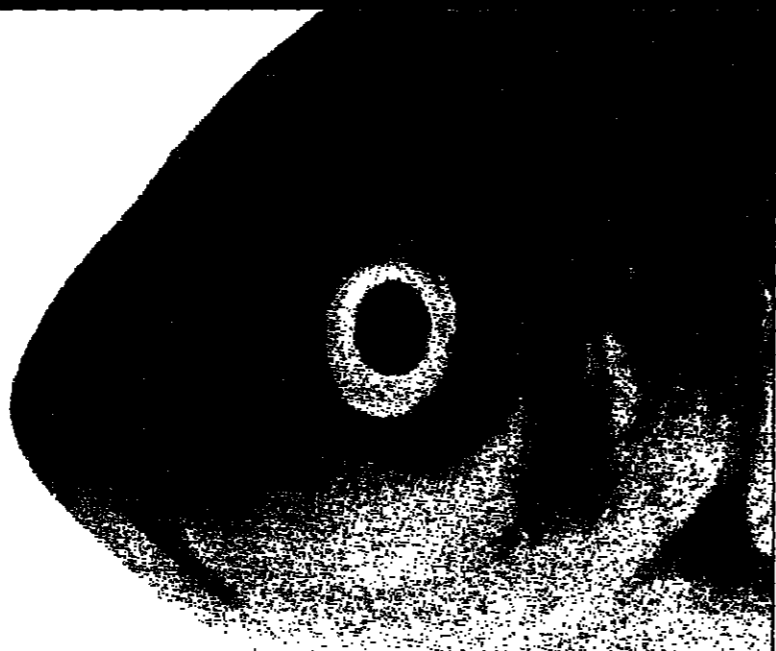
Wakeham: debated the changes with Mr Straw

Wake-11



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# Wake-up call over Irvine's £16,000 chambers

James Landale and Andrew Pierce on MPs' challenge to Lord Chancellor over his ornate sleeping arrangements

THE Lord Chancellor faced fresh embarrassment last night over the growing costs of refurbishing his official residence, as officials confirmed he was planning to spend £16,000 on two ornate oak beds. In addition, expensive woven wallpaper being used to decorate Lord Irvine's apartments has cost double the initial estimate agreed by peers last summer.

MPs will today step up the pressure on Lord Irvine when they put questions to Geoff Hoon, the junior minister responsible for the Lord Chancellor's department in the House of Commons.

The Tories have demanded a full investigation into the cost of the renovations after the latest details emerged of how the total of £650,000 is being spent. So far, £330,000 has been detailed in a written Lords answer, including £56,000 on light fittings.

Lords officials confirmed that two beds costing £8,000 each are being built for the Lord Chancellor. Each will be hand carved in gothic Pugin style out of English oak with a wooden headboard and wooden footboard. The designs are currently being drawn-up from a photograph of a Pugin bed at the Victoria & Albert Museum.

It will be a less flamboyant version of the bed in the Speaker's House which was built for the monarch in 1838. Each monarch was supposed to sleep there on the evening before the Coronation, but after it was installed the tradition died off. The monarch's bed, as it is known, will dwarf Lord Irvine's in size and value. It is worth at least £40,000.

Professor Clive Wainwright, head of the research department at the Victoria & Albert, who is a consultant to the refurbishment programme, said: "There were Pugin beds in the Palace in the past. I suspect there were some in the Lord Chancellor's apartments. I have been advising on how the Lord Chancellor's apartments would have looked. We are trying to recreate an authentic Pugin apartments."

There was some surprise in the furniture industry at the cost of the beds, which are intended for Lord and Lady Irvine's bedroom and their guest room. At Simon Horne, a leading London furniture store,



Lord Irvine, above, and Pugin, whose style is being recreated at the apartments



a four-poster oak bed retails for £6,500. At Harrods, beds made to customer's requirements cost £2,000 to £20,000, but £5,000 is considered a good price. Tudor Oak in Cranbrook, Kent, also sold similar beds for lower prices.

A £25,000 oak dining table has been made for the Lord Chancellor by Edward Barnsley Workshop in Hampshire, whose most celebrated work was the archbishop's throne and lectern at Canterbury

Cathedral. Mr Barnsley said last night: "It is a very impressive table. It sits at least 10. I think it is good value for money."

The refurbishment will include up to £145,000 for carpets, curtains and upholstery. The total earmarked for household items hand-crafted in the ornate 19th century style was £239,000. House of Lords officials denied reports that the carpets would cost £100 a square yard, and insisted the cost was £34 a square yard. They also denied that the curtains would cost £200 a square yard, and put the figure at £60 a square yard.

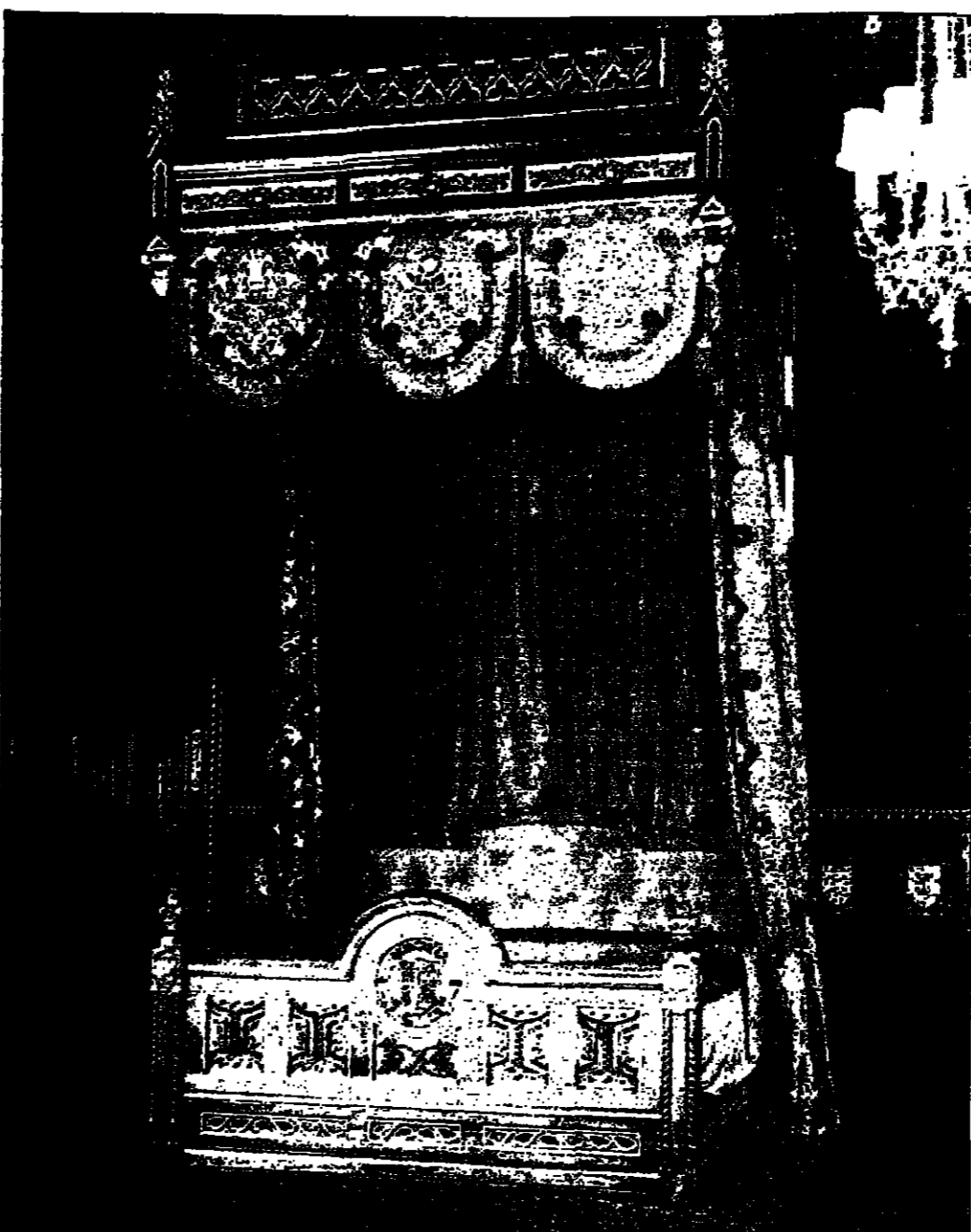
It was known that £60,000 was being spent on the Pugin-style wallpaper which will cover most of the peer's rooms in the Lords. However, it is now understood that the written estimate initially put to the administration and works sub-committee last July listed the cost for "restorations and wallcovering" was £35,000. The elaborate wallpaper is made by painstaking printing techniques which have not changed since they were used by Augustus Pugin to renovate Parliament after it was destroyed by fire in 1834.

The refurbishment was ordered specially after the election, despite fresh denials from Downing Street. Government officials yesterday repeated their insistence that the renovation was part of a 10-year rolling programme of building work in the Palace of Westminster which began in 1992.

However, a written Parliamentary answer before Christmas confirms that the work was added to the programme last summer after it was given the go-ahead by a complex network of internal Lords' committees.

According to the written answer on December 18, Lord Boston of Faversham, chairman of committees, told Lord Cocks of Hartcliffe, a former Labour chief whip: "The refurbishment was not part of the ten-year rolling programme of works prior to these decisions, but consequent on them became part of that programme."

"Certain connected works such as automatic fire detection, telephone cable renewals, asbestos removal and heating repairs had been approved previously under separate programmes."



The Monarch's bed in the Speaker's House. Lord Irvine will have a less flamboyant version

This will give fresh weight to claims that the refurbishment was ordered directly by the Lord Chancellor. The previous Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, made few alterations to the official residence.

One senior peer on the administration and works sub-committee said: "We did not know anything about any beds. It was all very

broad brush. But what is certain is that not only was the whole thing speeded up, but it was also done a bit more lavishly than we expected."

Tory peers said they agreed to go ahead with the refurbishment because they understood that the apartments needed to be done up. But they said they had not appreciated quite how lavish the

refurbishment would be. On the price, Dr Simon Thurley, director of the Museum of London, said: "It's outrageous, whatever sort of bed it is. If it's supposed to be an ordinary bed, then that's a huge amount of money."

"But if it is being made to match his residence, then it's ridiculously cheap and the job can't be being done properly."

## Politics does make strange bedfellows

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

LORD IRVINE will soon have a bed finer even than the Prime Minister's. When Tony Blair bought a new bed after moving into Downing Street, he chose a Swedish make featuring two frames, a double layer of springs and a mattress divided into six separately sprung sections. It cost £3,526.

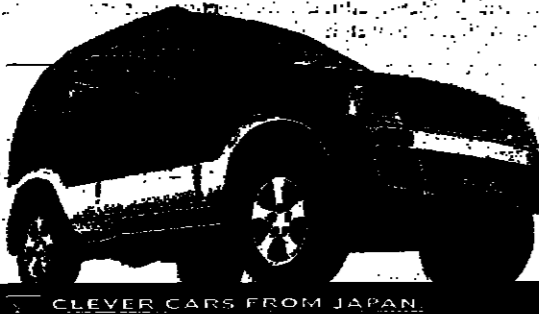
On the other side of the political divide, William Hague's marital bed at his Dolphin Square flat is understood to be as conservative as one might expect from a Yorkshireman.

It is probable that the Lord Chancellor will be more comfortable between the sheets than even the leader of the free world. President Clinton's marriage bed is certainly not the grandest in the White House. That is in the Lincoln bedroom, where he puts up major fundraisers such as Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks. But even that is reputedly pretty uncomfortable.

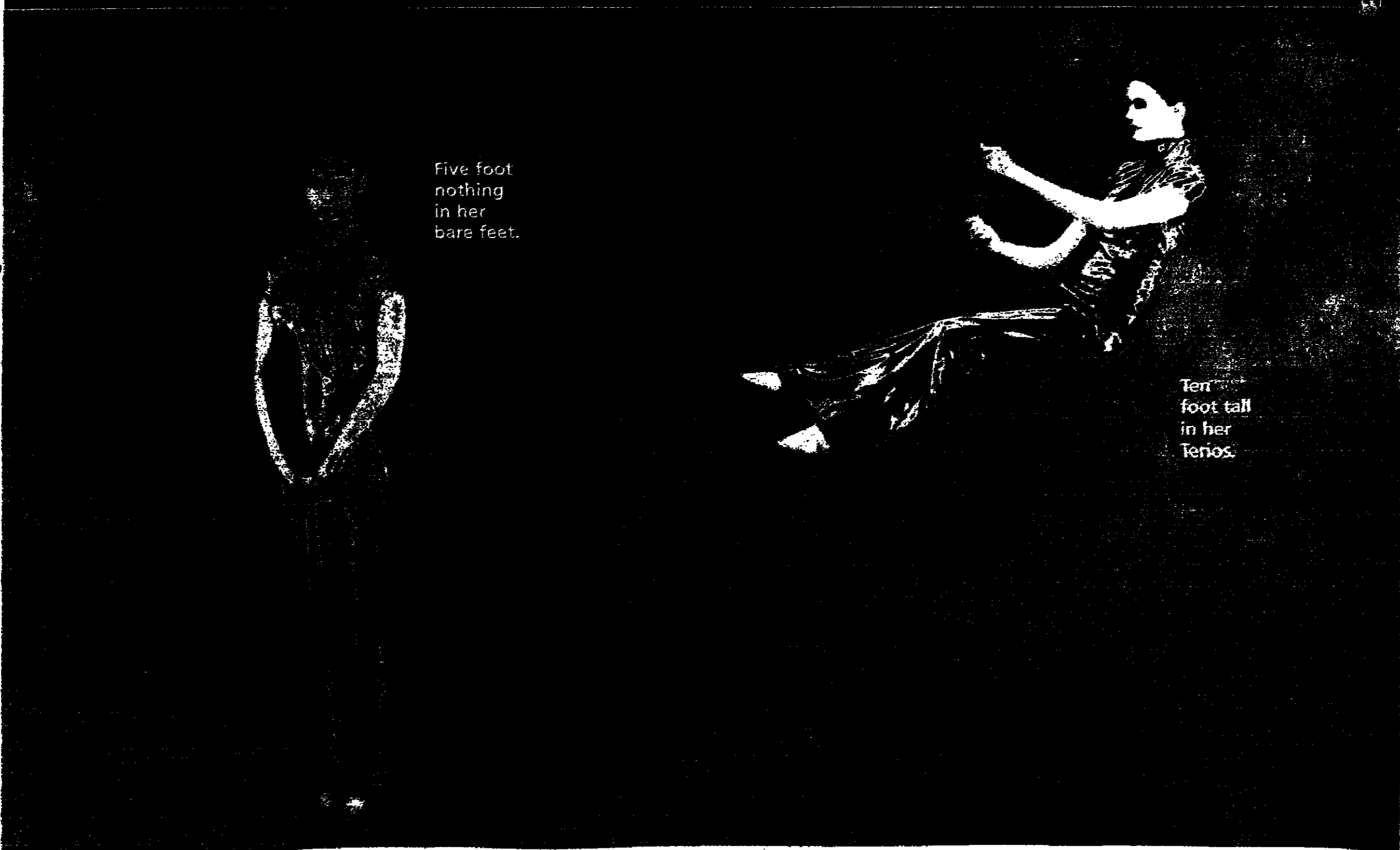
Perhaps the political heavyweight in the same league as Lord Irvine is Chancellor Kohl. His staff have to ensure that the hotels he visits are able to provide a specially reinforced structure to support 160 kilograms.

There is no bed still in existence that can be linked to Cardinal Wolsey. But the inventory of his possessions at the time of his death reveals that the man to whom Lord Irvine once compared himself wore his nightgown amid extraordinary splendour. "It would have literally been cloth of gold," said the Tudor historian David Starkey. "One set of hangings featured the vices, which was basically an excuse to show noble women in a state of undress."

Simon Thurley, director of the Museum of London and former curator of Hampton Court, said: "After the King, his was one of the grandest beds in the kingdom."



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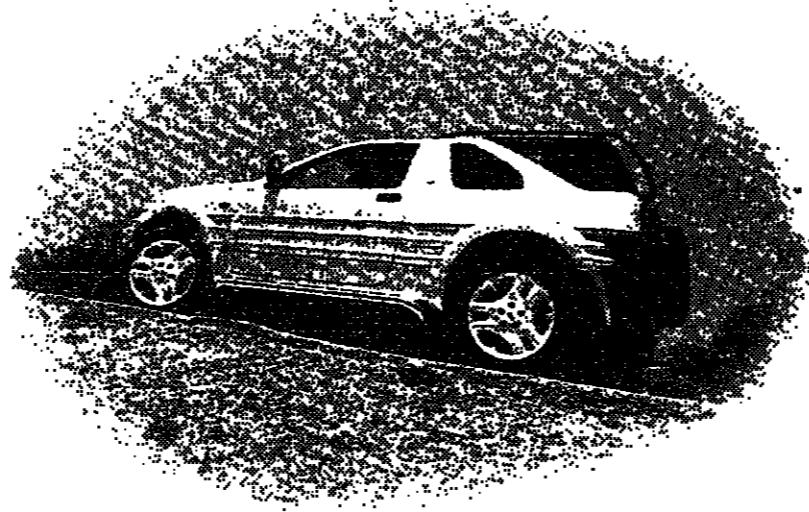
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# Minister pleads for time to save Old Vic

Dalya Alberge on a little bit of theatre that took the stars by surprise

THE Culture Secretary astounded the theatre world yesterday by using the Laurence Olivier Awards as a platform to beg the owners of the Old Vic not to rush into a quick sale of the historic theatre.

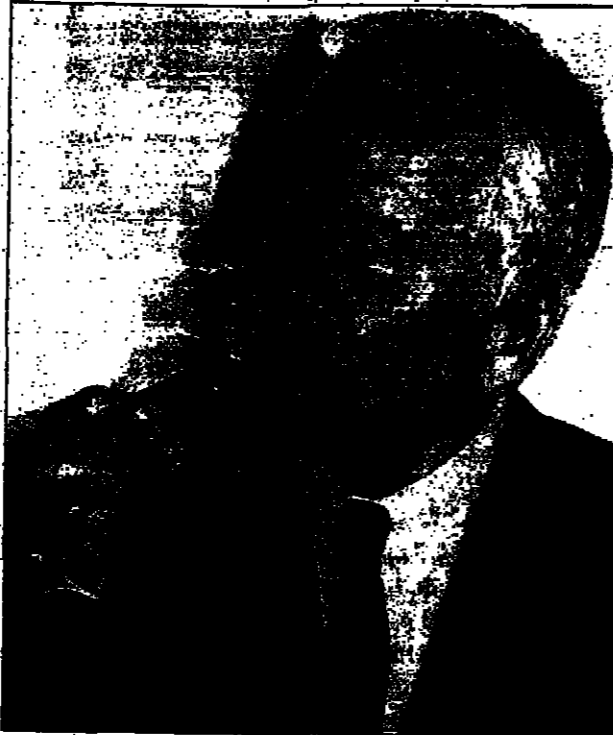
Chris Smith made a special plea to Ed and David Mirvish, Canadian owners of the Old Vic, just after announcing that they had won a special award for their work in restoring and running the 180-year-old building.

"Please don't rush into a disposal of the Old Vic and give all the rest of us a chance to come forward with good high-quality proposals for it to run as a theatre, with a vital role to play in London's life," Mr Smith said.

The reaction from his audience at the Albery Theatre was one of confusion. Did he mean that the Government intended to buy the Old Vic? What surprised them all the more was that it sounded just like one of their own lines.

It was a speech that enabled Mr Smith to steal the limelight, diverting attention away from Ian Holm, who won the best actor award for "one of the best King Lear's London's stage has ever seen", and Zoë Wanamaker, who took the best actress title for *Electra*, beating the Oscar-nominated Dame Judi Dench.

Earlier in the ceremony, Mr Smith had to contend with the host Clive Anderson, taking a swipe at the Government for its arts funding record. Mr Anderson said that it had been an eventful year for the arts, with the opening of London's Globe Theatre showing audiences what it would have been like to visit a theatre in Shakespeare's day. "The new Labour Government showed us what arts funding must



Ian Holm, who won the best actor award for "one of the best King Lear's London's stage has ever seen"

have been like in the Middle Ages."

When Mr Smith took the stage, he countered: "Can I just say that the Middle Ages didn't last forever." Mr Anderson noted the "encouraging words from Chris Smith: indeed the Middle Ages didn't last forever, so things could be picking up in 300 to 400 years."

David Mirvish and his father, who acquired the theatre in 1982 for £300,000, spent millions renovating it and are looking for bids of about £7.5 million for the Grade II listed building.

After a year's residency, Sir Peter Hall's company was forced to leave the theatre last

December. After the ceremony, David Mirvish, who collected the award with his mother, said that he would take Mr Smith's advice: "I can afford to wait a little while. I never set deadlines, but in the next six months I'd like to see it resolved."

Earlier he had joked that he would now have to "reject the bookstore idea". A bookshop was among proposals from dozens of prospective buyers. Others had included restaurants, shops, pubs and nightclubs.

He said that he had been going out of his way to maintain the Old Vic as a theatre, and expressed sadness that the country which

invented the "gentleman's agreement" no longer seemed to observe it. At least one purchase pulled out at the last moment.

The British way, he said, differed from the Canadian: "I didn't realise how your real estate system works." One bidder, he said, decided that they had "agreed to pay too much. Your system allows that. Mine doesn't."

Tracy Collins, a director of the West End agents Nelson Bakewell, who are handling the sale, said that bids to maintain the building as a theatre were either not high enough "in terms of money" or could not "guarantee the future".

"That's very important to David. He has been surprised and generally disappointed that people who share his love of British theatre are not prepared to do anything about it."

Hearing of Mr Smith's comments, Mr Collins said: "David is trying to protect the future of the Old Vic. However, he's going to run out of patience one day. He's been very accommodating with various parties. There have been one or two who said they'd buy it and then pulled out at the last minute."

"With someone like David Mirvish, who's such an honorable man, it's difficult to explain why. It's difficult to explain to someone who has a lot of integrity."

Mr Collins went on to note that, even though the Mirvishes were not "from our country", they were making a great effort to preserve part of Britain's heritage. Ultimately, though, they needed more than "wonderful words from the minister".

Arts pages 36-38



Zoë Wanamaker: beat Dame Judi Dench to win best actress award for *Electra*

# No prizes for theme pubs that banked on fakery

By Alan Hamilton

IT WAS a year when redundant banks were converted into pubs, and modern pubs were turned into mock Irish or Victorian alehouses.

But when the time came to hand out the annual design awards for newly built or conserved pubs, judges for English Heritage and the Campaign for Real Ale decided standards were so low in 1997 that no one deserved a prize.

The judges' report says: "A depressingly large proportion of the entries were bedecked with over-familiar 'heritage' paraphernalia - Disneyesque trappings straight out of the catalogue, rather than the back of the attic."

Mike Benner, of Camra, added: "Our competition aims to reward pub developers who are original in their approach, but they are becoming fewer. The problem stems largely from the trend away from tenants, who give a pub individuality, and towards managers, whose job is to build the brewery's image."

Only once in 12 years has Camra felt able to make a design award for a newly built pub, but the big brewers defend the trend towards themes. A spokeswoman for Scottish and Newcastle said: "Customers enjoy visiting a branded pub. They recognise the name, and they know what to expect. Our sales figures show the public like it, and we certainly intend to continue."

Most of the £10 million spent on refurbishment during last year was felt to be a waste of money. However, the Bread and Roses in Clapham, South London, won the best refurbishment award for its transformation from a run-down community pub into a "hostelry with attitude", with no sign of plagiarism, fakes or boring repetition.

The award for best conversion to a pub from a previous use went to Frazier's Bar in Edinburgh, formerly a branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland. So many redundant town-centre banks are now being turned into pubs and restaurants that they are in danger of becoming a theme.

## LAURENCE OLIVIER AWARD WINNERS

Best actress in a musical, *Uta Lampa in Chicago*; best actor in a musical, Philip Quast in *The 7½*; best actress, Zoë Wanamaker in *Electra*; best actor, Ian Holm in *King Lear*; best new play, *Close*, by Patrick Marber.

Best new musical, *Beauty And The Beast*; best theatre choreographer, Simon McBurney in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*; best set designer, Tim Goodchild for *Three Hours After Marriage*; best performance in a supporting role, Sarah Woodward in *Tom & Jerry*; best supporting performance in a musical, James Dreyfus in *Lady In The Dark*.

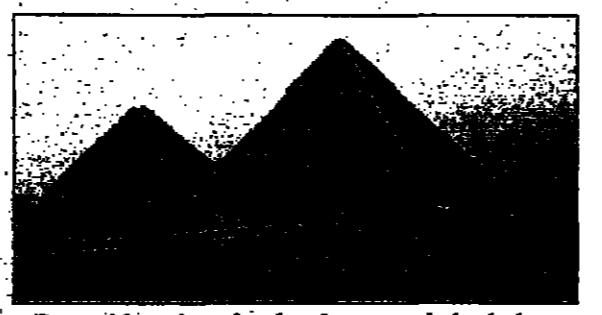
Best new dance production, *L'Allegro, Il Penseroso Ed Il Moderato*, by Mark Morris; Dance Group and English National Opera in association with Dance Umbrella; outstanding achievement in dance, Lez Broderston for *Chorealis*; best entertainment, *Sine's Showtime*, by Sine Polunsky; best costume designer, Tim Goodchild for *Three Hours After Marriage*.

Best new opera production, *Paul Bunyan*, performed by the Royal Opera; outstanding achievement in opera, Paul Daniel for conducting the English National Opera's *From The House Of The Dead* and his contribution to the ENO; special award, Ed and David Mirvish for outstanding contribution to restoring and operating the Old Vic.

Best lighting director, Rick Fisher for *Chips With Everything* and *Lady In The Dark*.



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## Pyramids built 'by Egypt's big noises'

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A WRITER says he has solved the mystery of how the ancient Egyptians moved stone blocks heavier than diesel engines to build the Great Pyramid. A clue lies in the way an opera singer can shatter a wineglass, according to Andrew Collins.

He says the secret was to use sound vibrations, whether made by a raucous cacophony of instruments or the violent striking of a surface. Mr Collins, 41, says he has "compelling evidence" that some technology was used to move the heaviest stone blocks in ancient civilisations.

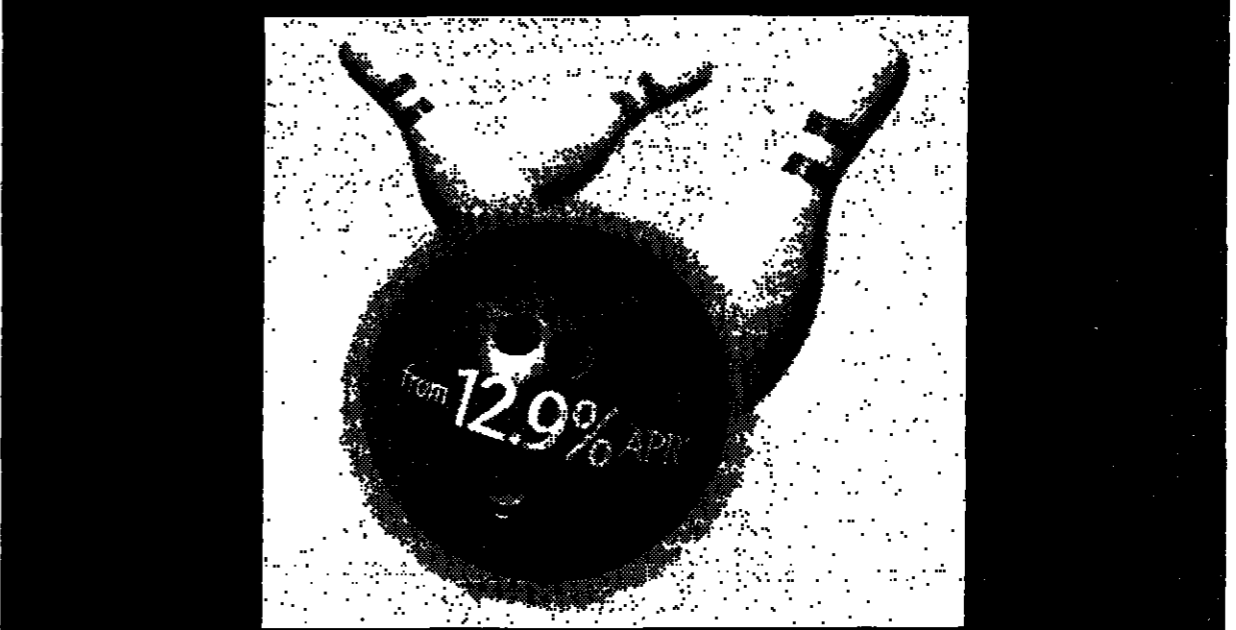
He concedes that the theory will appear ludicrous to both scholars and the layman, but draws on evidence in ancient sources and contemporary research.

How the Egyptians built the Great Pyramid - "arguably the most accomplished engineering feat of the ancient world" - has long perplexed scholars. Theories involving ramps, rollers and pulleys have been accepted as the most likely explanations.

But Mr Collins says that some of the stones, weighing up to 200 tonnes and measuring up to nine metres, would have required the strength of 4,000 men. "Until the 1970s, the largest weight a crane could raise was just 100 tonnes."

He begins his study *Gods of Eden*, published this month, with a 10th-century text. An Arab historian, relating stories passed from one generation to another, spoke

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More than just a bank

# Awake on the operating table

Paralysed, in pain and insulted: patients describe their experiences when the anaesthetic wears off too soon. Ian Murray studies the files

THE experience dreaded by patients undergoing surgery — waking up under the knife — has been described by dozens of victims. Their reactions ranged from severe panic to being upset by insults about their weight.

A 47-year-old man weighing 22½ stone heard someone ask: "How can a man be so fat?" A 46-year-old, 15-stone woman heard surgeons making "disgusting" comments about her size.

Among the serious reactions by the 30 women and 15 men who described the experience, 18 were in severe panic when they emerged from the general anaesthetic. 22 suffered anxiety and four had "moderate fear".

Eight were in severe pain and three recorded moderate pain. A 49-year-old man having an emergency heart bypass operation felt the electric shocks of the defibrillator and a voice saying: "We won't get him."

In 31 cases the patient tried without success to alert someone that they were conscious and 27 said they were totally paralysed. The length of time they were aware of what was happening varied from a minute to an hour.

Forty of the patients told someone what had happened when the operation was over and ten said they were met

with disbelief. Nineteen found medical staff sympathetic.

The experience left 11 patients with frequent nightmares and 11 suffering daytime anxieties. Three patients needed medical treatment for their worries and three suffered post-traumatic stress disorder.

Seven cases were during Caesarean section and one mother heard theatre staff talking as they cut her open. Although she felt no pain, she heard her baby crying after it was delivered.

A 63-year-old man having a hip replacement heard the sound of metal and felt his leg being moved up and down as the worn bone was cut out. In moderate pain, he panicked and tried to alert someone, but was paralysed.

All the patients could hear what was going on, described by 25 as "general theatre chat". The others heard comments about the progress of the operation or their appearance. A 34-year-old woman woke while her appendix was being removed to hear the surgeon say: "She needs some more anaesthetic because she is a red-haired nurse and everything is different and very special in her case."

Half the patients were able to see and 12 recognised things or faces. Thirty remembered being touched. Although 14 of



Anaesthetics have advanced since the chloroform rag clapped over the mouth, but are still not foolproof

the cases were emergencies, when anaesthetics can be less precise, most were during planned operations.

Those taking part in the study by the Institute of Anaesthesiology of Munich

University were recruited by advertisements in four German newspapers or suggested by anaesthetics departments at three Bavarian hospitals. Writing in today's issue of the *British Journal*

of *Anaesthesia*, Dieter Schwender, a professor at the institute, says the cases illustrate the need for theatre staff to be careful what they say and do, as awareness by patients does occur during a general

anaesthetic. How many have these experiences is not known, although other studies have put the number as high as 2 per cent of those undergoing operations and one in 3,000 may be aware of pain.

# Fall in lung cancer rate poses smoking puzzle

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

CASES of lung cancer have fallen considerably faster than can be explained by the decrease in smoking, particularly among young men, according to new research.

Over a 30-year period the incidence of lung cancer fell annually by 2 to 3 per cent more than was expected from the fall in tobacco consumption, the research shows.

But a separate study yesterday brought bad news about smoking among adolescents: even if 12 to 17-year-olds have no intention of taking up

smoking, tobacco advertising and promotional items may lead a third of them to try.

The research into British lung cancer, published today in the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, compared rates of lung cancer from 1955 to 1985 with smoking data from Cambridge University's 1984-85 health and lifestyle study and a record of cancer inpatients in 60 hospitals.

In men, the lung cancer rate fell faster than predicted in those under 44. Among

## ASTHMA GROUP URGES CIGARETTE CLAMPDOWN

Asthma campaigners will today press the Government to outlaw smoking in public places, including parks and shopping centres, to prevent thousands of tobacco-related hospital admissions

each year. The National Asthma Campaign says that nearly 50 children a day are admitted to hospital because of passive smoking, which has a unique effect on asthmatics: "It takes a

long time for the effects of cigarette smoke to show up in people with conditions like lung cancer, but for people with asthma, the effect is immediate," a spokeswoman said.

women, the rate was as expected in younger and older age groups but lower for those aged between 35 and 44.

The study took into account all aspects of cigarette smoking, such as age, tar content of

cigarettes and daily consumption. It was compiled for the tobacco company Philip Morris by Peter Lee, who runs a statistics and computing firm at Sutton, South London. "We can see nothing in our analy-

sis that explains this," Mr Lee said.

The survey of adolescent smokers, conducted by the University of California in San Diego, began in 1993 with 1,752 boys and girls between 12 and 17 who had never smoked and said they would not start even if a friend offered them a cigarette.

Three years later, the 56 per cent who had had a favourite cigarette advertisement in 1993 were twice as likely to have started smoking or be willing to start as those who did not have a favourite cigarette advert. The 5 per cent who owned a promotional item supplied by a tobacco company were nearly three times as likely to have begun smok-

ing than those unwilling to use such a promotional item.

"This study provides clear evidence that tobacco industry advertising and promotional activities can influence non-susceptible 'never-smokers' to start the process of becoming addicted to cigarettes," the researchers report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. "Our data established that the influence of tobacco promotional activities was present before adolescents showed any susceptibility to become smokers... Exposure to other smokers does not appear to significantly influence which adolescents begin the smoking uptake process."

Nearly half of the group had become susceptible to smoking — that is, were no longer adamant that they would not smoke — by 1996.

Three quarters of children between 11 and 15 think the legal age for buying cigarettes should be raised from 16 to 18, according to a poll by Respect, the anti-smoking campaign which is funded by the Health Department.

# Vaccine for hepatitis stops liver cancer

FROM NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A VACCINE has, for the first time, cut the incidence of a common cancer caused by the hepatitis B virus.

Vaccination programmes against hepatitis B, started in the 1980s, have now begun to reduce the prevalence of primary liver cancer, a common long-term consequence of the infection. Baruch Blumberg, of Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, told the meeting in the city yesterday.

Dr Blumberg, Master of Balliol College, Oxford, between 1989 and 1994, said that results from Taiwan had begun to show a reduction in the cancer, the third most common cause of cancer deaths in men worldwide, and the seventh most common in women.

Vaccination of babies against hepatitis B began in Taiwan in 1984. Ten years later, the incidence of liver cancer in six to nine-year-olds had fallen to a quarter of what it had been, Dr Blumberg said. In Korea, one study showed that not only the vaccinated groups but others too had benefited because the vaccination programme had reduced the risks of being infected with the virus.

Dr Blumberg and colleagues developed the vaccine in the 1970s, using particles taken from the surface of the virus. Hepatitis B is one of the commonest of all disease-causing viruses, with up to 90 per

cent of the population of large parts of Africa and Asia infected.

Many of those infected develop antibodies and remain healthy. But some — varying between 1 and 15 per cent in different populations — become chronically infected, developing hepatitis, cirrhosis and cancer. Hepatitis B is among the ten deadliest infections, causing 1.5 million deaths a year. The vaccine is now used in 70 countries and has proved very effective.

Dr Blumberg said it might be possible to eradicate hepatitis B if programmes were extended and if an effective treatment for carriers became available. "The dramatic drop in the incidence of liver cancer has happened after about ten years of the vaccination programmes," he said.

Dr Blumberg, who won the 1976 Nobel Prize for Medicine for his discovery of the hepatitis B virus, said that other cancers could be controlled in the same way. Papilloma virus, for example, is related to cancer of the cervix, while the bacterium *Helicobacter pylori* is a cause of stomach cancer. Between 15 and 40 per cent of all cancers may be caused by viruses.

# Gum bacteria attack heart

THE bacteria found in diseased gums may trigger heart attacks, two American scientists have found.

Previous studies have shown that people with poor dental health are more likely to have heart attacks, but direct evidence of the mechanism has been lacking. Mark Herzberg and Maurice Meyer, of the University of Minnesota, have shown that the bacteria found in dental plaque near diseased gums can trigger the first stages of blood clotting, the event that leads to heart attacks.

They said that two bacteria, *Streptococcus sanguis* and *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, commonly found in gum disease, caused the effect. Dr Herzberg said the

mechanism was the production by the bacteria of a protein called PAAP (platelet aggregation associated protein). The protein is similar to collagen, the structural protein of skin. When a wound occurs and blood comes into contact with collagen, a clotting reaction begins to stop the flow of blood. It is believed that the same process is happening in many heart attacks, with PAAP mimicking the role of collagen and initiating blood clots.

Dr Herzberg estimates that about 60 per cent of the *S sanguis* strains in the human mouth can produce PAAP, and that gum disease gives them ample opportunity to enter the bloodstream.

SOMETIMES IT'S EASIER TO TALK TO SOMEONE YOU DON'T LIKE.



When you have a problem, it's the most natural thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone.

Sometimes, though, this creates another problem: who's the best person to confide in?

An obvious choice would be a close friend. But let's face it, we don't always choose our friends for their amazing powers of tact, diplomacy and discretion. Tell one person, and you may end up telling the world.

You may be lucky enough to be able to talk to someone in your family. Then again, you may be one of the large number of people who find talking to your nearest and dearest agonisingly embarrassing.

A girlfriend or boyfriend? If you can, great. But sometimes we don't want to expose our weaknesses to those who fancy us.

And sometimes your relationship is

the very problem you want to discuss. That's where The Samaritans can be useful. We're more discreet than your best mate, we'll listen as carefully as your girlfriend or boyfriend, and we're also sympathetic as your family. We're also non-judgemental, unshockable, and extremely experienced.

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And you don't have to be climbing up the walls before you call us — any kind of problem, big or small, is a good enough reason to pick up the phone. Call now. You'll find we're remarkably easy to talk to.

The Samaritans  
We'll listen to you. We'll help you.



Adam Russell

## Tide sweeps surfer to his death

By Stephen Farrell

A BRITISH surfer drowned after being swept out to sea by a rip tide at an Australian beach resort, police said yesterday.

Adam Russell, 33, from York, was using a cropped surfboard known as a "boogie board" off Park Beach at Coff's Harbour, New South Wales. He flew to Australia two weeks ago with his travelling companion, Catherine Boocock, who was swimming with him last Friday.

Miss Boocock, 26, from Essick, near York, a qualified lifesaver, tried to rescue him but was forced to abandon her attempt. She was spotted in the water 100 yards from shore and helped to safety by a surfer.

Mr Russell was found an hour later, face down in the water. A post-mortem examination will be held today.

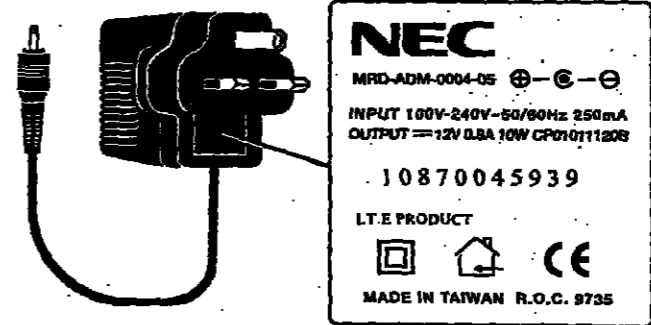
Police blamed inexperience. A German tourist aged 56 died on Tuesday at the resort, in northern New South Wales.

## NEC RECALL NOTICE

An important safety notice for owners of NEC rapid phone chargers.

A potential technical fault has been identified in a batch of Potrans battery chargers which were produced on behalf of NEC as accessories for our G9 mobile phone. Under extreme circumstances, this fault could cause the battery charger to malfunction and overheat, leading to a potential safety risk.

This potential problem only relates to one type of battery charger which can be identified by a silver label bearing model no. MRD-ADM-0004-05 (Made in China or Taiwan). Please note that the phones are not affected in any way.



As a precaution to safeguard our customers, we have decided to withdraw these chargers and replace them free of charge. If you have one of these chargers, please take the following action:

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NEC would like to apologise for any inconvenience which this may cause.

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\*COMPARISONS BASED ON PAYMENT OF BRITISH GAS BILL BY CASH/CHEQUE PAID LATER THAN 10 DAYS AFTER THE BILL DATE ON AN ANNUAL CONSUMPTION OF 16,850 KWH. SAVINGS VARY ACCORDING TO CONSUMPTION.

Time: 2.44am.  
Date: January 17th 1991.  
Location: Baghdad.

"White flashes everywhere! Bullets are being fired. The sky is lit up. It looks like a million fireflies." These were the words used by CNN reporter John Holliman to describe the beginning of operation Desert Storm to the rest of the world. He was one of only three journalists left in the city. The others were Peter Arnett and Bernard Shaw, also reporting for CNN.

A few hours earlier U.S. President George Bush had given the go ahead to unleash the most awesome firepower the world had ever witnessed. His final words to his commanders in Saudi Arabia: "May God go with you."

Later that day, the voice of Saddam Hussein rang out from Baghdad radio: "The Mother of battles has begun! Satan Bush has committed his crime!"

Holliman dangled his microphone out of the window to catch the sounds of battle. Muffled explosions intermingled with the spitting cracks of anti-aircraft fire. "Fireworks on the fourth of July!" shouted Holliman.

Devastating though the firepower was, that wasn't why the attack seemed so awesome. This was history in the making for a different reason: close to 1 billion people around the world watched it live on T.V.



# THAT WAS THEN.

The effect of such unprecedented reporting created its own backlash. CNN came under attack from rival stations accusing it of stage managing the war. As the world watched the smoke rising from downtown Baghdad the cry went up that "The network is the mouthpiece of the U.S. military."

"No it isn't, it's the mouthpiece of Saddam Hussein" fired back the Bush administration, enraged by a report by Peter Arnett which apparently showed that the Americans had bombed a baby milk factory.

In the end it became clear that CNN was the mouthpiece of no-one. It offered no interpretation of events.

There was no editing, it simply reported the news as it occurred.

To governments engaged in war, such frankness can be irritating. It prevents them telling their version of events and allows people to make up their own minds.

By the time the "Mother of battles" was over, CNN had become the mother of a new style of news reporting. There were those who said it was eerie and disconcerting to be able to tune into a war on prime time television. True, such reporting often puts the facts, the world

and all of us to account. It may have resolved nothing. On the other hand it can provoke informed debate and in that way influence how the world works. Is that good? You decide.



Time: 3.02am.  
Date: February 17th 1998.  
Location: London.

Different President. Different Prime Minister. Same Saddam.

On the face of it, this Gulf crisis seems the same as the last. Look a little deeper and you see it's much more complex. (So, incidentally is CNN. Gone is the rolling news format. Now detailed news reports, edited in London, are interspersed with an enormously diverse range of information programmes offering analysis and in-depth coverage of almost everything on the planet.)

What is going on?

If you listen to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the World is teetering on the brink of a Third World War.

According to President Clinton and Tony Blair, Saddam Hussein is concealing the existence of secret factories producing weapons of mass destruction. Most notably, they are becoming alarmed about the possibility of chemical warfare.

"This amount of VX" said Defence Minister George Robertson raising a glass of water to the T.V. cameras "could wipe out the population of London."

In Israel anxious crowds have been rushing to get hold of the gas masks being distributed by the government.

Nightly news programmes show gruesome footage of dead Kurdish villagers gassed by Saddam.



# THIS IS NOW.

In Kuwait people have been filling their cars to the brim with petrol to make sure they can reach Saudi Arabia just in case Iraq attacks its tiny, oil rich neighbour once again.

The British and the Americans want to bomb Iraq for Saddam's refusal to cooperate with the UN's weapons inspectors. Many of the Allies disagree. France urges time for diplomacy. Saudi Arabia is reluctant to become involved. Syria opposes any further military action against Iraq. Even General Schwarzkopf, mastermind of Desert Storm, has aired doubts about the effectiveness of a bombing campaign.

"It's disgusting. They're just going to kill a lot of innocent Iraqis, but not get rid of Saddam," said Dr Anwar Chalabi, one of the many exiled contenders to replace Hussein should his regime fall.

What on earth is this impending war about?

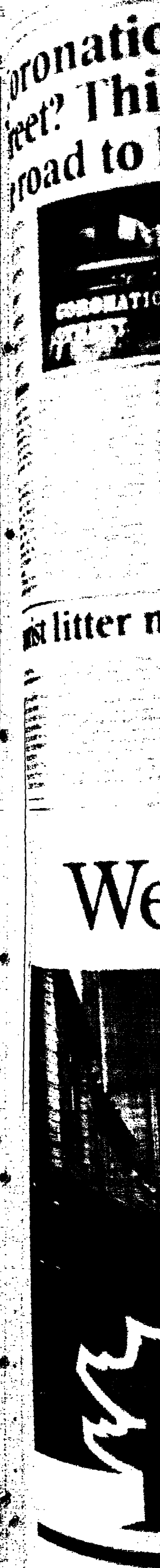
If there is an answer, your best chance of finding it lies in sifting through the facts. For that reason CNN offers unbiased, real-time reporting of events, rather than interpretations of them. The breadth and depth of programming on CNN may have increased dramatically over the years, but everything we do is still informed with the same principle that

we began with: whatever opinion you reach, it will be your own.

Will there be war in the Gulf? Should there be a war in the Gulf? We'll tell you facts. You decide.



صكنا من الاصل



# Coronation Street? This is the road to hell

They live in some of Britain's most famous homes, but residents say that gangs are ruining their lives, reports

Russell Jenkins



The image: from the opening credits of the series



The reality: Mike Grundy in Laburnum Street. "Some nights it is like Beirut. You can hear the gangs," he says

THE real Coronation Street is a haven for street gangs, thieves, arsonists and drug users. Half the properties are boarded up and the remaining residents live bunkered behind heavily bolted front doors.

The rooftops of Laburnum Street are part of the network of back-to-backs in Salford that feature in the opening credits of Granada TV's long-running soap opera. However, characters such as Emily Bishop and Ken Barlow would not recognise today's desolation.

Out of 70 houses, 36 have been abandoned. Gangs have

vandalised the empty houses, leaving a trail of broken glass and splinter. Warning posters from security companies appear to have little deterrent. Properties once valued at £30,000 fetch as little as £3,000 to £4,000, if they can find a buyer at all. Estate agents' boards carry the words "by auction". Residents are afraid to park outside their houses in case their cars are stolen or vandalised.

On one house, the painted graffiti reads: "Hags grass-kill 'em." Residents say that the family fled after one of them gave evidence to police about a shoplifting offence.

The house is a burnt-out shell where people dump their rubbish.

The local public house, The Langworthy, could have doubled for The Rovers Return, but it closed two years ago after one too many fights. Near by is the affectionately called "chimney pots park" which looks down over the terraces. It is a no-go area after dark.

Stephen Callacher, 34, a highways inspector with Manchester City Council, has lived in the Langworthy area all his life. With his son Carl, eight, he has a three-bedroom house which he bought for

£30,000 in 1990 at the end of the property boom. Now he thinks many houses should be demolished. He blames an influx of problem families, placed in rented accommodation by the council.

"It used to be a nice area. There was a time when people were friendly and in and out of each other's houses. Now it is not safe to venture out at 12 o'clock at night. Some of the houses have been empty for four years.

"What they need to do is knock them all down. Most of the residents have the same kind of mortgage problems as me. The only ones left are the

ones who own their own homes and can't get out."

Another resident, too fearful to be named, blames the plummeting property values on "young scareaways". He said: "If you say something to them, they will wait until you have left the house before chucking something through the window."

"Recently a van pulled up here and the driver left to do a job. When he got back a few minutes later, his windscreen was smashed and the wheels were on bricks."

Maureen Grundy, 54, has lived in Laburnum Street for

18 years. Now she she feels like a prisoner: "We do not dare to leave the house unattended and we do not pop into each other's houses. We have got to stay put in the house. Someone has always got to be in because of the thugs around here."

Her husband Mike, 56, added: "Some nights it is like Beirut. You can hear the gangs of youths roaming the streets. I am sure many of them are high on drugs."

Margaret McKinnon, 28, lives at Laburnum Street with her daughter Marcelle, eight, but it is too dangerous for her to play outside: "I'd love to

move, but I can't find anywhere else I can afford. I feel trapped. I don't earn enough to be able to pay rent on somewhere decent."

Linda Barlow, another resident, was burgled shortly after she moved in. They took her television, video and her children's hi-fi. She said: "It was probably drug addicts looking for money for a fix."

Residents say they have made repeated requests to Salford City Council to clean up the area. A council spokesman said: "We are well aware of residents' concerns. We will be working with them to improve the situation."

NEWS IN BRIEF

## New DNA tests in Dickinson inquiry

Thirty more men will be asked to undergo DNA testing in the Caroline Dickinson murder inquiry after more than 700 calls were made to a telephone hotline set up last week, French police said yesterday.

A photofit of the suspected killer was released last Friday. Voluntary saliva tests will determine whether the men's DNA matches that of the man who raped and murdered the 13-year-old English schoolgirl in the village of Pleine Fongères, Brittany, in July 1996.

## Head charged

A head teacher is to be charged with indecent assault after a police investigation into complaints by former pupils. Gordon Cornell, 56, head of St Michael's Primary School in Braintree, Essex, was suspended from his post in October.

## Gola comeback

The football boots that helped Roy of the Rovers to score, and which were worn by Manchester United players, are to be relaunched in time for the World Cup. Jacobson and Sons hopes for sales of £20 million with Gola products this year.

## Late call

Sarah Fawcett has acquired her first telephone at the age of 87, but is too timid to make calls. Illness led her to install the telephone at her home in Bradford, but all calls so far have been incoming. "I haven't rung anyone, I dare not," she said.

## Going south

Scarborough's cliff lift was dismantled and transported nearly 400 miles to Cornwall, where it will be rebuilt in the town of Lanneston. Scarborough council gave the 70-year-old lift to Lanneston Civic Society because it could not afford repairs.

# Tourist litter mars the beauty of Britain's beaches

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

TOURISTS are the worst litter louts on Britain's beaches, dumping 34.4 per cent of all the rubbish found, including crisp and sweet packets, tins, cans and cigarette stubs, according to the annual Reader's Digest Beachwatch survey.

Only in the South West is this trend reversed, with 30 per cent of all rubbish coming from shipping

or fishing boats. Two Cornish beaches get a special mention in the survey — as the cleanest and the most litter-strewn in the country. Porthpean beach near St Austell heads the dirtiest dozen, with 52 items per metre and Semmer Cove, 35 miles away at Land's End, was found to be the most pristine, with 0.84 items every metre.

The North West tops the litter table with more than 25,700 items collected, representing 4,069 bits of

rubbish per kilometre — well above the national average of 1,554. The amount of sewage-related debris (659 items per kilometre) was four times the national average of 132 and far worse than in any other region, making it the second largest source of litter on the region's beaches.

The 13 beaches surveyed in Northern Ireland proved to be among some of the cleanest, with only 636 items per kilometre. Tourists were

responsible for 55 per cent of all rubbish on the Province's beaches.

In the North East, tourists are the most careless. An average of 1,554 items per kilometre were collected by volunteers, representing a 50 per cent increase over the previous year. Tourists accounted for 55 per cent of the 1997 figure.

Russel Twisk, of Reader's Digest, said: "In the five years since the launch of the Beachwatch campaign, the results have been consistently showing us that levels of litter remain unacceptably high."

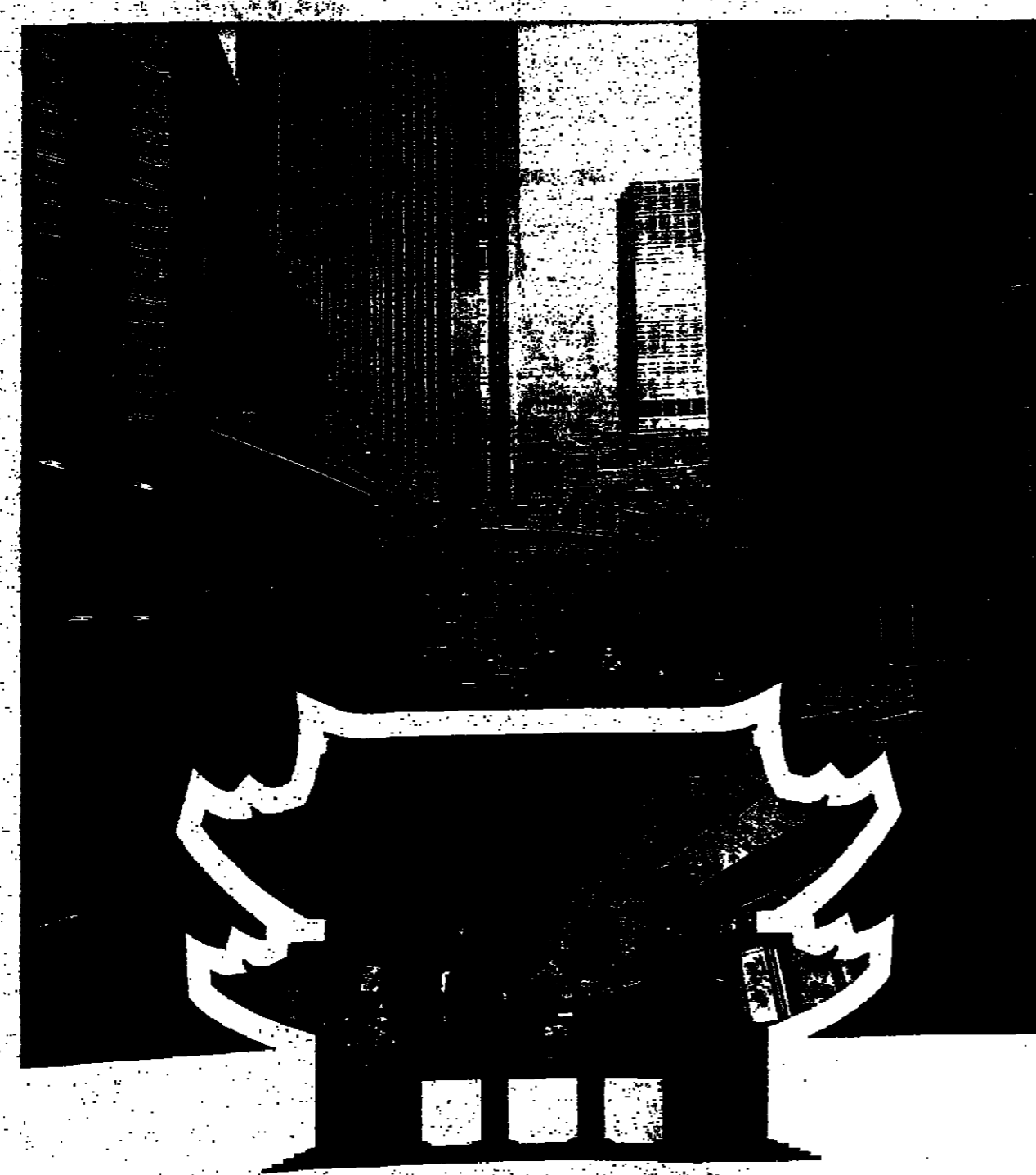
Plastic, the most persistent debris material, has consistently made up more than 50 per cent of litter recorded each year. The latest figure of 57 per cent is the highest so far. Sussannah Hickling, Reader's Digest environment editor, said: "Increasingly, Beachwatch has shown us what a plastic-dominated society we've become."

Samantha Pollard, conservation

officer at the Marine Conservation Society, which is involved in the Reader's Digest survey, said yesterday: "Ships must stop dumping overboard and individuals must not drop litter or flush away plastic bathroom waste."

Her colleague, Julian Parr, added that the society was calling for the Atlantic Ocean and Irish Sea to be made special areas, like the North Sea, where there are restrictions on what ships are allowed to dump.

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# Tory torch dropped as Hague seeks new flame of inspiration

No symbol is sacred as Opposition leader starts the job of rebuilding his party, Andrew Pierce writes



Torch of freedom: party logo created in 1982

THE Tories' flaming torch, first lit as a symbol of Thatcherism after Britain's victory in the Falklands War, is to be extinguished by William Hague.

The logo, which was lit by Margaret Thatcher and Cecil Parkinson, in his first period as Tory chairman in September 1982, is to disappear as part of the modernisation of the party.

Nothing is sacred in the review. The traditional royal blue, the uniform colour of generations of Tory MPs and workers since 1964, may also go in favour of a more subtle mauve.

The changes were disclosed yesterday as Mr Hague presented his *Fresh Future* document, which heralds the biggest reorganisation of the party since Disraeli's time. The programme includes giving every party member a vote in electing a new leader, setting up an ethics committee to ensure that the leadership has the power to sack wayward MPs and councillors, and committing the Conservatives to transparency about

their sources of funding. The modernisation plans were declared at an American-style press conference at the Atrium restaurant in Westminster, which was where Mr Hague launched his campaign for the party leadership last summer under the slogan *A Fresh Future*.

He described the reform proposals as a "quiet revolution", based on consultation with the party's 330,000 members, and said that the reforms outlined the changes that Tory Blair had made to Labour. "We have reformed our party more in eight months than the Labour Party managed in 18 years."

The changes include a series of initiatives to involve ordinary members more in the running of the party. Among these are a move to put the party's next general election manifesto to a ballot of all the members.

Mr Hague reaffirmed that the next leader of the party would be chosen by a ballot of all Tory members, not just MPs as had historically been the case. "We will give every

member of our party an equal say in choosing our leader," he said. "One member, one vote."

But Mr Hague confirmed that the leader would continue to need the support of the parliamentary party to remain in office. "MPs still have the capability to remove a leader... but in the election of a new leader, the members of the party have the final say."

The changes will give Mr Hague unrivalled control over the party machinery for the first time. They will also give the leadership more control for the first time over the selection of candidates. The prospect of a successful leadership challenge will be made less likely because of the party activists' traditional loyalty to the leader of the day.

Mr Hague decided that the

logo, which is supposed to denote the torch of freedom, was past its sell-by date. Leading British designers will be invited to come up with a new symbol in time for the elections to the European Parliament in 1999.

A party spokesman said: "We will not exclude replacing blue as our colour. But we may not alter it that significantly."

The torch was given a £100,000 make-over in 1989 when Kenneth Baker was party chairman. But Tory strategists fear that it will be forever linked to the disaster of the 1997 election campaign.

The reform package includes plans to revamp what Mr Hague referred to as the party's Byzantine structure. At present constituency parties, Central Office and MPs all have separate organisations. Under the reforms, which will be endorsed at a special conference in Harrogate next month, a single, united party will be created.

Mr Hague said: "From now on we will be one party working together in a streamlined structure that our members understand and with which they identify." The reform package also signalled the end of the party's youth organisations including the Young Conservatives. "They have done a fine job in the



William Hague yesterday, outlining the reforms that will strengthen his control of the party machine

past, but frankly their image is poor and their membership has been steadily declining for decades."

They will be replaced by the Conservative Future, a youth body that will take the party's message to schools, colleges and the workplace.

Mr Hague, who is 36, said that, through Conservative Future's efforts, "we will be able to meet my pledge that half of all our party's new members should be under the age of the new leader". The reform package also contained measures to bring more women into Parliament.

## Radical reforms now call for much patience

By PETER RIDDELL AND TIM HAMES

FOR Labour, read Conservative. The Tory proposals for party reform launched yesterday by William Hague are similar in theme and language to the changes introduced by Labour in opposition. There is the same emphasis on increasing membership and wider participation in the election of the leader and in policymaking, while strengthening the power of the leadership.

Yesterday Mr Hague described the plan as the most radical innovation undertaken by the Tories since Benjamin Disraeli. This is true not least because the party's structure has shown remarkable continuity since then. Having been stuck in the mid-Victorian period for an awfully long time, the Tories will now try to leap straight into the 21st century. The Disraelian bargain between the party at the centre and the party in the country will be drastically rewritten.

For the past 130 years, constituency associations have had almost total authority over membership, financial arrangements and the selection of parliamentary candidates. The party at Westminster has had almost total command over party policy and the selection of the leader. Conservative Central Office has acted, often uncomfortably, as a sort of clearing house to deal with the separate administrative needs of both sides.

This will now change. The new national board estab-

### COMMENTARY

lished by Mr Hague will oversee a national membership list and recruitment campaign. It will keep the bulk of subscription income that comes direct to it from new members and send back a modest proportion to the relevant constituency. The constituencies will still make the final decision on candidates. However, their choice will come from a central "approved list" that will weed out the "clearly unsuitable".

All parts of the party — prospective candidates, constituency associations and even individual members — will be subject to discipline by the board and/or the new Ethics and Integrity Committee. The price is an almost revolutionary dose of democracy. The whole membership will choose a leader from two candidates shortlisted by MPs, and have the ultimate say over candidates for the European Parliament, Scottish parliament, Welsh assembly and mayor of London. They will also have much more influence over policy, both through a new consultative policy forum and through ballots on the single currency and the final election manifesto.

The Tories' plan is more far-reaching and tidier than Labour's changes, partly because they have no complications over the unions. And, as Mr Hague claimed, the Tories have done more in

eight months than Labour managed in 18 years.

Comparisons end there. Improved organisation is a necessary rather than a sufficient condition for recovery. The key changes introduced by Tony Blair were in the positioning of the party, new Labour replacing old Labour, and in the attempted abandonment of its "tax and spending" image. Party reforms — the adoption of one member, one vote and the rewriting of Clause Four — were presented as proof of his desire to govern as new Labour. They mattered more to altering the public's view of the party than in their own right.

That is the missing link now. Unlike Labour in 1994-95, the Tories do not yet have a clear theme. They have so far failed to articulate middle-class worries about government measures that penalise their savings. Nor is there any sense of the Hague camp stirring an anti-Blairite intellectual mood.

Mr Hague has understandably concentrated so far on talking to his own party. He now needs to address the public. But his buzz words about a "fresh, open, listening, popular" party mean little to voters. The party has yet to reconnect with the electorate, and its concerns. Or, rather, the public is not yet interested in the Tories since it is still giving the Government the benefit of the doubt. Mr Hague will have to be patient, but will his party be?

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# MPs want Short to answer claims over Montserrat

By NICHOLAS WAIT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CLARE SHORT and Robin Cook are to be summoned before the Commons International Development Committee to answer claims that they are shirking their responsibilities for the Caribbean island of Montserrat.

Bowen Wells, the Conservative chairman of the cross-party committee, issued the summons to the International Development Secretary and the Foreign Secretary after reacting furiously to the Government's official response, published yesterday, to the report that the committee issued in November.

Ms Short will get a taste of the anger on the committee from Labour and Conservative MPs when the Commons debates her response to the Montserrat report tomorrow, Andrew Rowe, a Tory MP on the committee, said. "The Government's response is extraordinary. They say that every-

thing is wonderful but they are not going to pay attention to the problems we raised."

The committee's report accused the Government of a "clumsy response" to June's volcanic eruption, which killed 19 people. The MPs were "appalled that vulnerable people should be found in poor and degrading conditions" in Montserrat's hospitals. They also accused the Government and the authorities on the island of failing to draw up adequate plans for evacuating islanders in the event of another eruption and of providing inadequate support for islanders who had fled to Britain.

In its response yesterday, the Government endorsed the committee's report, adding that it "recognised that there have been some failures and mistakes". But MPs on the committee claimed that the Government then proceeded

to dismiss its criticisms. Jenny Tonge, a Liberal Democrat member of the committee who is a doctor, was disturbed by the Government's claim that there was enough medical equipment in the island's main hospital "to meet present needs". Dr Tonge said the hospital was in a desperate condition. "A lot of the equipment is in storage. The response to the committee glosses over the problems."

Ms Short gave evidence to the committee twice in the autumn to answer charges of government bungling. She infuriated the island's leaders in August by saying their demands were so unreasonable that "they will be demanding golden elephants next".

Mr Cook is being summoned because the Foreign Office is to take over responsibility for Britain's remaining colonies, including Montserrat, from Ms Short's department.

# Bouncer wins by a nose over Tories

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

LAWYERS have agreed the value of a voter's nose after a man was injured when a Conservative Party election placard fell on him outside a polling booth in the former Stirling constituency of Michael Forsyth.

Terry McKeown, 39, of Perth, suffered a broken nose after being hit by a 2ft by 3ft "Vote Forsyth" hard-board sign that fell six feet from a flagpole on election day in 1992.

Yesterday, in an out-of-court settlement, the unemployed former nightclub bouncer and construction worker accepted an undisclosed sum in damages from the Conservative Party, which accepted liability last November. The amount was said to be far less than the £55,000 that he had been seeking, but he explained after the hearing at Stirling Sheriff Court that he had accepted the offer on the advice of his lawyers.

Commenting on the size of the settlement, he said: "It's enough to erect some proper signs. That's about it. It hasn't covered me for the pain I have been through



Terry and Madaline McKeown outside Stirling Sheriff Court yesterday

and will go through in the future. For years I've been having sore heads, sneezing all the time. I have to breathe through my mouth, so I get chest infections. I don't know if I'll ever be able to work again." The placard had been hung by two pieces

of string on a metal flagpole outside a church in Stirling on April 9, 1992. It was claimed that the party had failed to take down the sign despite earlier warnings about high winds. When the string snapped, the placard crashed onto Mr McKeown.

a father of three, who had been waiting outside with his son Kevin, two, while his sister-in-law registered her vote. The impact broke his nose and left him with a condition known as a deviated septum that will require an operation. After receiving treatment at Stirling Royal Infirmary, he returned to Perth in time to cast his vote for the first time in his life. He said that he backed Labour "out of spite". Mr Forsyth won the Stirling seat and became Scottish Secretary, but lost his seat last year.

Mr McKeown said: "It was a windy day and I saw the sign swinging above us. Suddenly I felt a bang. I put my hands up to my face, and when I took them away I realised I was screaming with blood. It could have been much worse. It could have hit my son. A blow on the head with a sign like that could have killed the boy."

Later Mr McKeown said his health problems cost him his job as a bouncer and that he had been forced to give up work as a labourer because of breathing difficulties. He is still prescribed anti-histamine pills for his breathing problems, and even sneezing is painful. His wife, Madaline, 33, a careworker, said: "This settlement is nowhere near enough to live on. How do you put money on a man being able to play with his children?"

# Buses to ease jam caused by the school run

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN are to be encouraged to use school buses to reduce congestion caused by parents driving them in the rush hour. More than half of Britain's seven million pupils are now estimated to be taken to classes by car, and the school run is thought to cause a quarter of peak-time congestion in many towns, costing the economy more than £600 million in lost time.

Plans to be announced soon by ministers will intensify pressure on councils to encourage public transport. More money will be targeted at school bus travel, making streets safer for cycling and walking, and for dissuading parents from driving to school. Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, said yesterday: "Twenty years ago, nearly one in three primary school children made their way to school by themselves. Now about one in nine does. By designing safe walking and cycle routes, and by imaginative use of public transport and car sharing, we can make great inroads."

Ministers acknowledge that concern about safety is the main reason for parents

chauffeur children to school, but they believe that better funding for secure alternatives would lead to a change in attitudes.

Councils provide free bus travel for secondary school pupils living more than three miles from school and for primary school children living more than two miles away. However, ministers are alarmed by the rapid rise in the number of children being driven fewer than two miles.

From April, ministers are increasing the money for councils who introduce schemes to reduce the number of short car journeys. About 80 projects will receive £85 million to help to improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians, especially near schools, and more may be available.

In separate developments intended to reduce congestion, ministers are preparing to allow councils in rural areas greater opportunity to impose heavier parking charges to discourage drivers from motoring to beauty spots. The money raised would be used to set up park-and-ride schemes, in which drivers would leave their cars several miles away.

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# Lawless state sullies India's orderly poll

BIHAR, the basket-case state of India, resembled more of a battle zone than a political arena yesterday as security forces fanned out for polling day, their numbers too few to control the private armies that sully democracy in one of the nation's most backward regions.

Patna, the state's decrepit capital, was more desolate than usual because of the declaration of an official holiday. It is poorer, bleaker and dirtier than any other state capital — a fitting symbol for a region that ought to be rich from abundant natural resources and fertile land, but instead perpetuates the worst mass poverty in India.

One man has towered over Bihar for the past seven or eight years: Laloo Prasad Yadav, the former Chief Minister who was forced to resign last year in a corruption scandal — and promptly used his political might to appoint his semi-literate wife to the post. She says proudly that she does nothing without her husband's permission. This is

Corruption and poverty infect Bihar, reports Christopher

Thomas in Patna

democracy Bihar-style. Aside from Saturday's bomb attacks in the south Indian city of Coimbatore — the death toll has risen to more than 50 — the general election campaign has been mostly peaceful. This is a formidable achievement for the Election Commission's drive to take violence and corruption out of polling and minimise the number of criminals running for office.

But nobody can clean up Bihar, where politics are dominated by the Yadavs, a "backward" caste of milk producers who spawned the political phenomenon of Laloo — once a poor man who has never forgotten the insults he endured

from high castes. He still occupies the Chief Minister's mansion, and remains de facto political leader of 120 million of India's poorest people.

He was jailed last year over a corruption scandal in which the state exchequer handed out millions of pounds annually for several years to buy non-existent fodder for non-existent cattle. His prison was an air-conditioned boarding house with telephone, television and facilities for visitors. Out now, he is a damaged, chastened man whose political organisation, the Rashtriya Janata Dal, could be battered by election rivals, proving Bihar's democracy is not entirely dead.

Bihar is so violent it has been divided to two, for voting on separate days, enabling security forces to move en masse for each polling day. The Naxalites, a left-wing armed group, terrorise parts of the state. So do high-caste landlords who run private armies to suppress restive low castes. In December, 61 low castes in the village of Batan Tola were butchered by members of one of the armies, the Ranvir Sena.

More than 60 per cent of Bihar's polling stations were declared "sensitive" by the Election Commission — meaning they are prone to attack by politicians' paid thugs whose job is to stuff ballot boxes with fake votes or to order people at gunpoint how to vote. Local election officials tend not to report such incidents, fearing reprisals. Booth-capturing, as the practice is known, is a Bihar speciality.

Bihar is big: it has 10 per cent of the seats in the Lok Sabha, the important lower house of parliament, giving it enormous political clout. But it is mostly a mockery of democracy. Laloo's wife, Babri Devi, who has been Chief Minister for eight months, is embarrassingly, even cruelly, out of her depth. Her oft-repeated statement is: "I will do what my sahib tells me."



Muslims return by train from a prayer session near Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, yesterday. More than two million faithful from 73 countries, including Britain, sought blessings at the end of a three-day annual Islamic ritual beside the Turag river, near Dhaka



Sanjiv Singh carries his grandmother, 85, to vote in their village, 80 miles from Delhi, yesterday

# Russia 'plotted to kill Shevardnadze'

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

ONLY days after well-trained gunmen ambushed the motorcade of Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian President, there are growing suspicions that Russian forces were behind the latest attempt to remove him from power.

After a series of arrests in Georgia and the discovery of an arms cache, Georgian officials and Western diplomats are convinced that Russia's hand was behind the hit. Up to 15 gunmen with precise intelligence about his movements blasted his motorcade with grenades, rockets and automatic fire for several minutes. Although the bullet-proof presidential car took a direct hit from a rocket and two bodyguards died, the

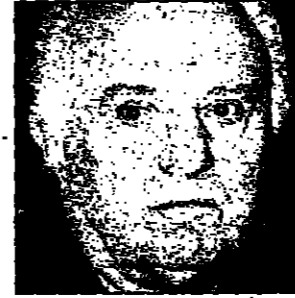
Georgian leader emerged without a scratch.

Mr Shevardnadze has no shortage of homegrown enemies, including Abkhazi and Ossetian separatists.

But the professionalism, the scale of the attack and the escape of many of those involved suggest that it was more than simply the work of a rival clan or a disgruntled mafia boss.

"It makes sense for Russia to organise such an operation and then execute it with local forces they had trained," a local analyst in Tbilisi said yesterday. "These people will take the blame and Russia will conceal its involvement."

Despite Russian denials, the consensus in Georgia is



Shevardnadze: target

that hardline figures in the Kremlin and the Russian military are determined to remove Mr Shevardnadze from power for economic and political motives. Without the former Soviet Foreign Minister, who enjoys huge support in the West, the country could descend into civil strife and

Georgia's bid for a lucrative oil pipeline from the Caspian would succumb to the rival Russian route.

Also, hardliners in the Russian Government and military have not disguised their displeasure with Mr Shevardnadze's attempts to loosen Russia's control over the Cau-

casus. In 1993 they backed Abkhazi separatists in their victorious war against Tbilisi. The clearest accusation of a Russian hand came from the "White Fox" himself, as the cunning, white-haired 70-year-old Georgian leader is known at home.

"Judging by the fact that those who had been arrested were trained outside Georgia, I see a certain connection between this attack and the earlier assassination attempt on August 25, 1995," he said on Sunday. In that a car-bomb exploded outside the Georgian parliament building, injuring the President as his motorcade was passing. The prime suspect fled in a Russian military aircraft.

Leading article, page 21

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# 206 killed in Taiwan Airbus crash

Jet was landing in rain and fog, write James Pringle and Our Foreign Staff



GEORGE CHUNG / AP

ALL 197 passengers and crew were feared dead last night after a Taiwanese airliner crashed into houses and exploded as it made a second attempt to land at Taipei international airport during darkness, heavy rain and fog. Nine other people, including a two-month-old baby, were killed on the ground.

Witnesses said the plane hit the ground several hundred yards short of the runway, then skidded through trees and electricity poles and into houses beside a road. Bodies and wreckage were strewn over 100 square yards as the jet continued into a rice paddy and burst into flames. The fire lasted for more than an hour.

The China Airlines A300 Airbus had been approaching Chiang Kai-shek airport just after 8pm local time. Hamilton Liu, a China Airlines spokesman, said that because of poor visibility the pilot had been asked to make a second approach to the northern runway.

The aircraft was carrying holidaymakers returning from Bali and senior Taiwan government and banking officials who had been attend-

ing a meeting in Indonesia on the Asian economic crisis.

Onlookers said the plane disintegrated on impact. As weeping relatives congregated at the airport, disaster teams continued to scour the smouldering wreckage. Bodies wrapped in white plastic were lined up in long rows.

"First I heard a great explosion, and then the sky suddenly brightened," said a 60-year-old woman who saw the crash.

Another witness said: "I heard a deafening explosion and then I saw the airplane smash several houses, including that of my uncle. It then became a sea of fire... really like hell."

"One man said the fire lasted more than an hour. My cousin was burnt to death in the living room... and a child has not been found." Most of the 197 dead from the plane were presumed to be Taiwanese, although the names of five Westerners were on the passenger list.

Among the passengers were Shou Yuan-dong, the governor of Taiwan's central bank, his wife and three of the bank's

officials. The air disaster was the worst in Taiwan's history, though not the worst for the country's leading air carrier. A China Airlines Airbus A300 hit a mountain in Nagoya,

Japan, in 1994, killing 264 passengers and crew. After that, there was an extensive retraining programme for China Airlines pilots. Japanese investigators said that the

crash happened because the pilot was inexperienced and the aircraft was not in the correct mode for landing. A total of 72 people have died in four other China

Airlines crashes since 1986. Airbus Industrie said the plane which crashed yesterday was delivered to China Airlines in 1990. Ground teams scouring the

debris last night filled body bags with the charred remains of the dead. Crash investigators retrieved the black box flight data and cockpit voice recorders.

## Maestro's decision to go shocks Berlin orchestra

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

BERLIN, soon to be the fully fledged political capital of Germany, is losing one of its most important cultural figures: Claudio Abbado, director of the Berlin Philharmonic.

There was surprise and nervousness yesterday among the orchestra's musicians when Abbado, in an interview with the BZ newspaper, announced he would not be renewing his contract when it expires in 2002. The Italian-born conductor, who has been at the helm since 1989, helped to keep the Philharmonic on an even keel after the long reign of Herbert von Karajan. "He kept the budget steady at bay," said one young musician. "Now who will protect us?" The answer may be Sir Simon Rattle, the British conductor who is again being mentioned as a leading candidate for the Philharmonic, one of Europe's most important orchestras.

Berlin has been chopping its cultural budget and theatre, museum and opera directors

have been forced to argue hard for funding. Under Karajan, the Philharmonic was untouchable. Signor Abbado had an uneasy start with his orchestra, but is now, also highly regarded.

Politicians have been quick to emphasise that Signor Abbado's age, he will be 69 in 2002, rather than financial wrangling or creative ten-



Abbado rejuvenated Berlin Philharmonic

sions, is the reason for his planned departure. But German music-lovers doubt he is heading for retirement. "Some conductors only get really started at 69, that's no reason to go," complained the administrative head of the Philharmonic, Peter Riegelbauer.

Fighting for finance has probably taken its toll. Daniel Barenboim at the Staatsoper in east Berlin has been worn down by the capital's money problems and will not be renewing his contract.

The Philharmonic's rejuvenation was regarded as Signor Abbado's chief contribution. Most critics accepted that he cast off the shadow of Karajan - a legendary but dictatorial figure - by about 1995.

Unlike Karajan, the Italian was confident enough to invite many great conductors to work with the Philharmonic. His relations with his musicians were more relaxed than Karajan's but the musicians complained that they were worse off financially.



Hofer: "we only kissed"

## Tehran finds loophole in stoning case

IRAN is holding out some hope for Mehdi Hofer, 56, the German businessman condemned to death by stoning if he can prove that he was a Muslim at the time he allegedly made love to an Iranian medical student, he might be spared (Roger Boyes writes).

Herr Hofer's defence team argue that the Hamburg man had converted to Islam. The businessman also says that he did no more than kiss the unmarried 27-year-old woman.

## Lawyer 'put lover on death row'

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A MURDERER awaiting execution is pleading for clemency on the ground that his lawyer was so blinded by love for him that she made strategic blunders at his trial that led to his death sentence.

Reginald Powell, 29, says Mary Ann Markkors, the public defender assigned to his case, became emotionally involved with him, preventing her from providing an adequate defence at his trial in 1988. He is scheduled to die by lethal injection a week tomorrow in Kansas City, Missouri.

Powell, who is black, was then 18; Ms Markkors, who is white, was 35. Tests put his IQ

at 65, well below average; she had never taken a death penalty case to trial. Ms Markkors concedes that they made love three times in a cell during the trial.

Powell's present lawyer, Bruce Livingston, has appealed to Mel Carnahan, the state's Governor, to commute the sentence to life imprisonment.

Mr Livingston argues that Powell's low intelligence, combined with rejection by his family, made him overly dependent on Ms Markkors. He had stabbed two men to death while mugging them, and was arrested the next day. There

were witnesses. Yet, with her judgment "impaired by love", Ms Markkors insisted that he should plead not guilty. She also chose not to put him on the witness stand, where his rental retardation might have moved the jurors to be lenient. Mr Livingston contends that a guilty plea would have saved Powell from death.

Powell's case is supported by a number of letters he received from Ms Markkors. Mr Livingston said: "They varied in tone from that of a junior high school romance to the smutty and obscene things you might read in Penthouse or some other magazine."

### WORLD SUMMARY

#### Papon trial witness gets warning

Paris: A German lawyer called for the Bordeaux trial of the accused Nazi collaborator Maurice Papon refused to testify and flew home after he received a death threat (Ben Macintyre writes).

Court officials said Rolf Hoffer got a letter of printed letters, reading: "Vichy is alive. No German witnesses, if you talk it's death."

#### Killing spree

Vilnius: A gunman, 58, armed with two hunting rifles shot dead eight neighbours in Drauchiu, 30 miles north of the Lithuanian capital, before being beaten to death by two survivors. (Reuters)

#### Mercedes peril

Stuttgart: A 46-year-old armed man arrested in Kirchheim, Germany, was accused of trying to blackmail Daimler-Benz by threatening to shoot drivers of Mercedes-Benz cars. (Reuters)

#### Workers riot

Phnom Penh: Hundreds of workers stormed a Taiwanese-owned clothing factory after the management forced eight workers to break rocks in high temperatures for violating internal rules. (AP)

#### Suharto's man

Jakarta: Indonesia's President Suharto installed General Wiranto, a former aide, as armed forces commander as anti-ethnic Chinese protests continued for a fourth day against rising food prices. (AP)

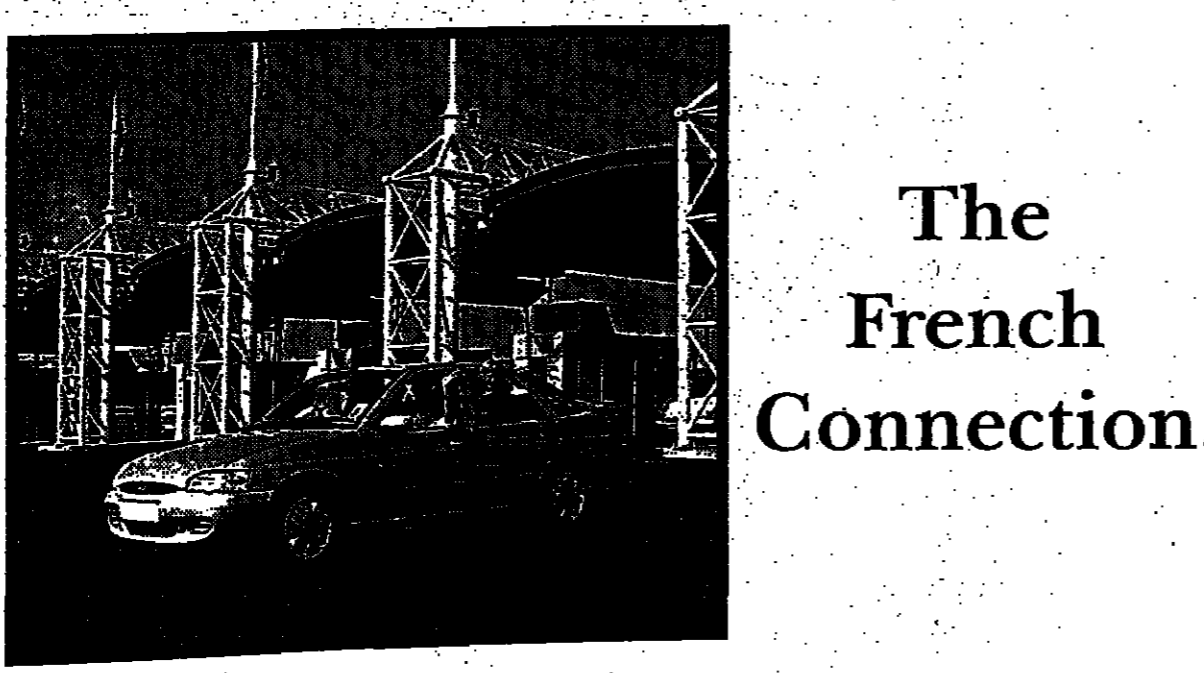
#### Wedding toll

Cairo: Five people died and 44 were hurt, including guests celebrating in the street below, when a packed balcony collapsed at a wedding in the village of Khieri, 120 miles south of here. (AP)

#### Vanishing point

Berlin: One of the most famous Cold War symbols, a 7th sign marking an American sector crossing point from West to East Berlin, has been stolen from outside theCheckpoint Charlie museum. (AP)

### The French Connection.



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# Annan ready for 11th-hour peace mission

THE United Nations Secretary-General plans to travel to Baghdad this week after stopping over in Paris if he manages to secure the backing of the United States for a last-ditch mission to avert war.

Kofi Annan, the UN chief, may hold preliminary talks in Paris with Muhammad al-Sabah, the visiting Iraqi Foreign Minister. Mr Annan was to meet representatives of America and the other four permanent members of the UN Security Council last night to seek their endorsement for a deal allowing so-called "white-glove" inspections of President Saddam Hussein's palaces.

Under the plan, UN surveyors would delineate the living quarters of the eight "presidential sites" declared off limits by Iraq and weapons inspections of those areas would be conducted by staff of the UN Special Commission (Unscm) accompanied by Baghdad-based diplomats from Security Council members. The formula is known by diplomats as Unscm-plus.

"The Americans will go for anything that looks like Unscm and will not go for anything that does not look

**Pope joins calls for UN to avert conflict, write James Bone and Our Foreign Staff**

like Unscm," one Western official said.

The Pope had urged Mr Annan to go to Baghdad, the Vatican said yesterday. It said the 77-year-old Pontiff relayed his concerns over Iraq to the Secretary-General through the Vatican's envoy at the United Nations at the weekend.

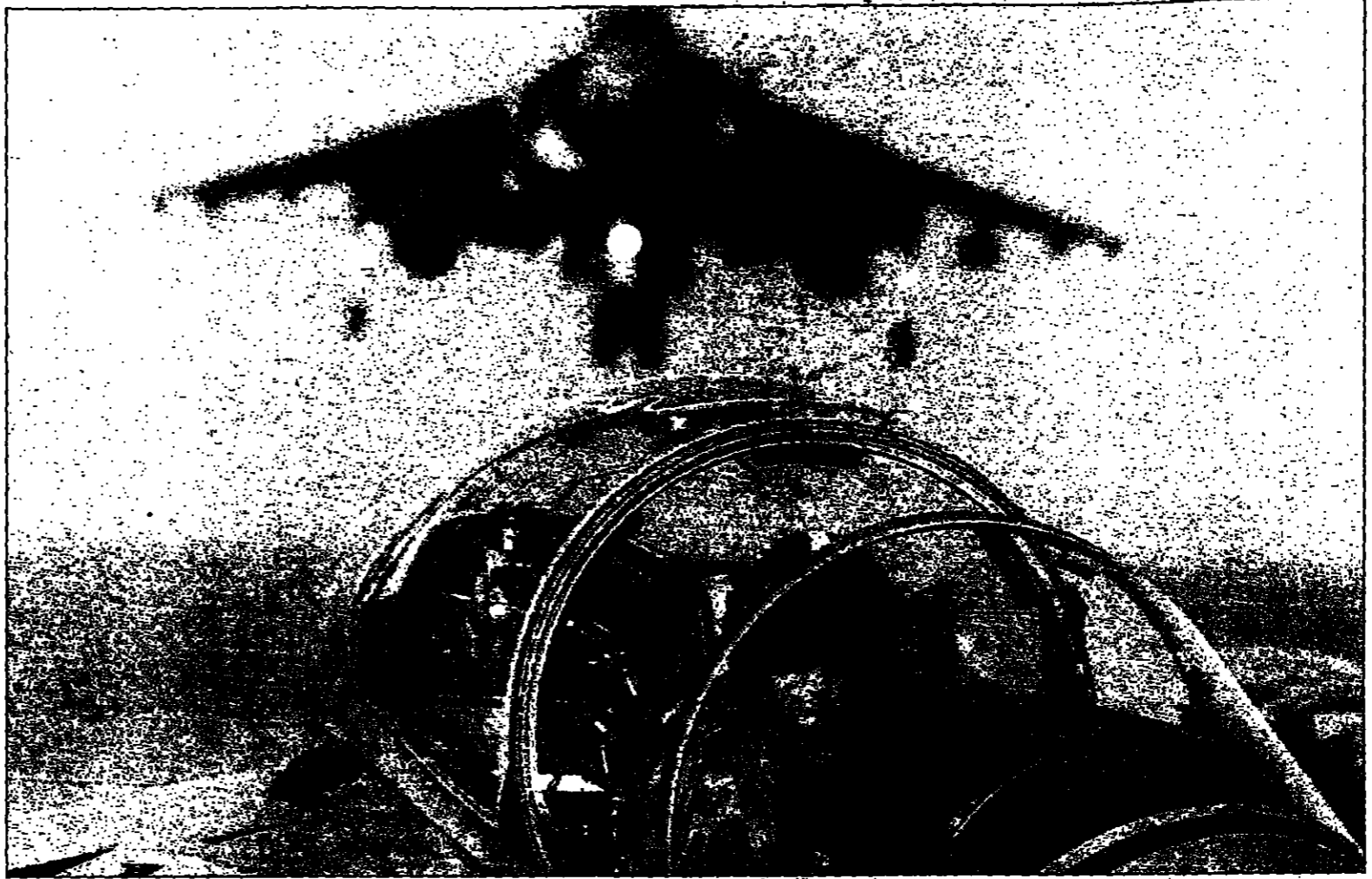
The Pope, who was firmly opposed to the Gulf War in 1991, has made several appeals for a peaceful end to the current crisis. By joining a chorus of international leaders who have urged the UN leader to go to Baghdad, the Pope made his clearest statement

that everything possible should be done to avert a military conflict.

Washington made preparations to justify the need for a limited military attack against Baghdad to a sceptical domestic audience as the Pentagon said that American warplanes patrolling the southern no-fly zone over Iraq have been practising bombing raids against specific targets for three months.

President Clinton will make a keynote policy speech to the nation from the Pentagon today after being briefed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the blueprint for final targets in Iraq. Inside a sealed room, Mr Clinton will be told that, despite the allies' ability to launch only a fraction of the force unleashed against Saddam in 1991, military intelligence is far better than during the Gulf War and it will be easier for practised aircraft to perform surgical strikes on specific targets.

Mr Clinton and his top aides still have to sell the idea to a domestic audience firmly convinced that any strike should simultaneously result in the removal of Saddam. The White House said it must



RAF Harriers patrolling the Gulf last on HMS *Invincible* yesterday. American aircraft have been undertaking practice bombing runs

prepare the public not only for pictures of Iraqi casualties but also for the deaths of US and allied pilots deemed inevitable in such a conflict.

Senator Dick Durbin, an Illinois Democrat, called on the White House to wait until the return of Congress next week before authorising any

assault against Baghdad. "The American people have to be in on this decision through their elected representatives," he said.

Mr Clinton needs no congressional backing to launch a war, but would find it a valuable asset in the event of widespread American casual-

ties. At the same time, the goals of America and Britain are being questioned by weapons experts. David Kay, former head of a UN nuclear inspection team in Baghdad, now at the Centre for Counter-Terrorism at Science Applications International Corporation, said he was uncon-

vinced about the ability of airstrikes to eliminate Saddam's biological and chemical weapons capability. He said the Iraqis liked to "play shell games" with their weapons, switching them between different buildings. Until the Gulf War, most weapons were kept in easily

located bunkers, but that is no longer the case. Locating easily manufactured biological agents required far more intrusive inspections than for nuclear weapons, the reason why the Biological Weapons Convention has never been able to incorporate an inspection regime.

# Threat of assassinations angers Jordan

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

## ISRAEL

RELATIONS between Israel and Jordan suffered a new blow yesterday when an Israeli inquiry into a botched Mossad assassination attempt on an Islamic militant in Amman last September failed to rule out further operations on Jordanian soil.

Shortly after receiving the report, Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister — who was cleared of responsibility by a committee — said Israel would continue to strike at terrorism "in any place". One panel member recommended in a minority report that Danny Yatom, the Mossad chief, should be fired. The other two on the panel left the decision to Mr Netanyahu, who deferred judgment. Aides said they expected Mr Yatom to stay on for a few more months.

The panel criticised Mr Yatom, saying that his planning of the operation was flawed. Most of the committee's conclusions about the attempt to murder Khaled Meshal, a senior official of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, by injecting poison into his ear will remain classified.

The Tel Aviv daily *Yedioth Aharanot* reported: "King Hussein of Jordan is furious that the committee refrained from condemning the assassination attempt on Mr Meshal, the head of the Hamas political department, on Jordanian territory. Hussein is furious that Israel did not make a commitment to refrain from such acts in future."

Shimon Shamir, Israel's former Ambassador to Amman, told Israeli radio shortly before parts of the report were made public that if it found nothing wrong in acting in Jordan, Israel's fiercest Arab neighbour, it was a slap in the face for the monarch, who is struggling to restrain support for Iraq among his people.

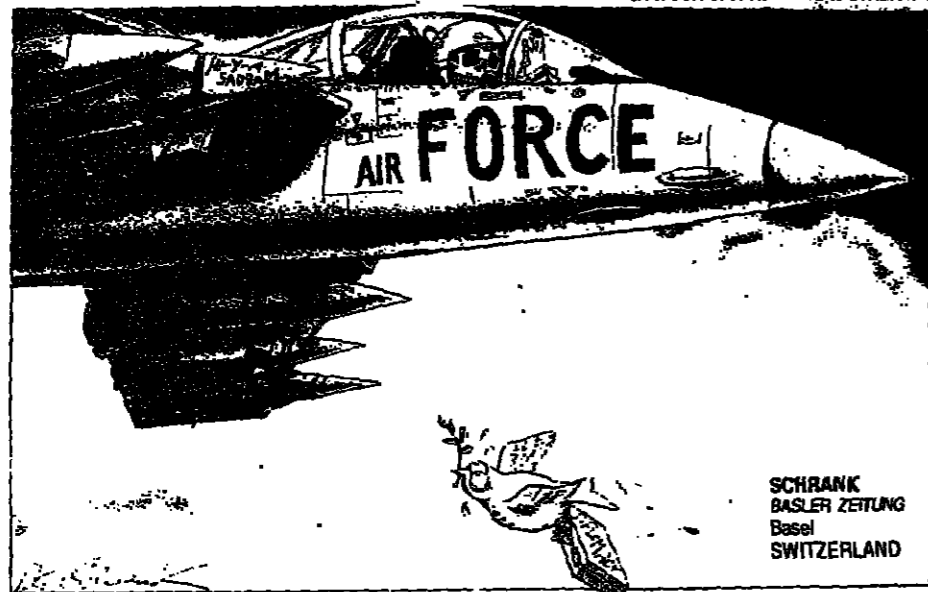
"An action against terrorism in Jordanian territory can, on the tactical level, be very effective in the war against terrorism, but on the strategic level it, in fact, declares outwardly to the public in Jordan and the Arab people that Israel disregards those who co-operate with it, that peace with Israel is not a real peace, that Israel continues in ways of the period of conflict," Mr Shamir said. Israel and Jordan signed a peace treaty in 1994.

The panel of two civil servants and a former Israeli Air Force head, was appointed by Mr Netanyahu to defuse criticism of the murder attempt, which led to the fleeing of Sheikh Ahmed

Yassin, the Hamas spiritual leader, and about 70 other prisoners in exchange for two Mossad agents caught red-handed.

The published section of the report concluded: "The decision to carry out the attack in Jordan was based on the principle that no place in the world should be allowed to serve as a safe harbour for those who plan to carry out murders and acts of terror in Israel. The commission does not question this policy, but nevertheless proposes that the Government discuss it, define its scope and establish ground rules for its implementation."

Maaleh Admonim: Israeli police evicted 35 Beduin families from a West Bank encampment here yesterday to make way for a Jewish settlement. Israel said the Beduins, who have lived in the area since the 1950s, were squatting on state land. (Reuters)



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How the cartoonist Schrank saw the situation in Basler Zeitung in Switzerland

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Entry lines to register in time for the Australian Grand Prix are open until noon on Thursday March 5. Full details of the competition and full terms and conditions appeared in the 16-page Grand Prix 98 supplement, free with yesterday's Times. For your missed Grand Prix 98 call 011-81 3371 by Friday Feb 20 for a copy.

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04 Giancarlo Fisichella	09 Eddie Irvine				

GROUP B DRIVERS					
13 Alexander Wurz	18 Mika Salo	23 Mika Hakkinen			
05 Ralf Schumacher	17 Pedro Diniz	21 Christian Kluge			
14 Jarno Trulli	19 Jan Magnussen	20 Esteban Tuero			
15 Johnny Herbert	16 Toranosuke Takagi				

GROUP C CONSTRUCTORS			GROUP D CONSTRUCTORS		
20 Williams	26 McLaren	29 Sauber	32 Tyrrell		
24 Ferrari	27 Jordan	30 Arrows	33 Minardi		
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CHANGING TIMES

سكزا من الالهي



# Cameras spy on Saddam's fortress 'palaces'

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

SATELLITE and aerial reconnaissance photographs of President Saddam Hussein's palace complexes and military facilities around the country are now being examined in detail daily as the world awaits the completion of diplomatic moves.

A senior British defence intelligence source said yesterday that he had that morning studied a high-resolution photograph showing a presidential palace in Mosul, northern Iraq, that was spread over an area of about 16 square miles. It is believed to have been taken from an RAF Tornado GRI using a Vicon high-quality tactical reconnaissance camera fitted inside a special pod attached underneath the bomber.

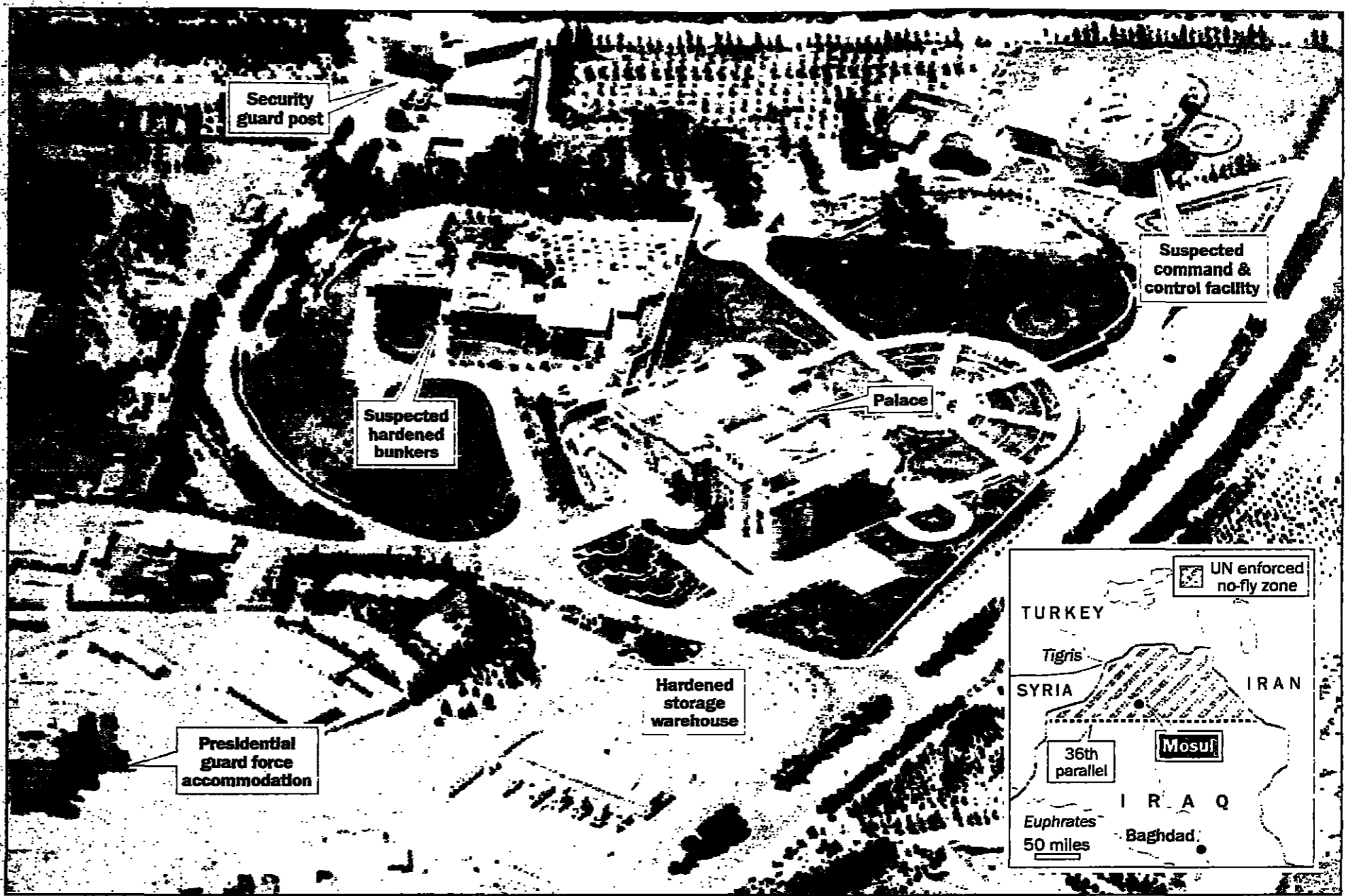
## WEAPONS SITES

The Mosul presidential palace is one of eight sites from which inspectors with the United Nations Special Commission on Iraq (Unsc) have been specifically barred.

mission on Iraq (Unsc) have been specifically barred. The intelligence source said: "This site [at Mosul] is the equivalent of an area spreading from Hyde Park to Wapping and from Regent's Park to Stratford, so it's not like Buckingham Palace or Balmoral." He added: "In each of the presidential sites we have examined, there are 50 to 500 other structures apart from the palaces. We found 500 separate buildings on one site."

The source said that the sites, now the focus of worldwide interest because of the suspicion that they harbour weapons of mass destruction, have fibre optic communications systems, and "hold numerous security bunkers (with) auxiliary power supplies and water-filtration plants".

Apart from the secure facilities, many palace sites had artificial lakes and swimming pools. "Saddam has spent gigantic sums on these sites since the 1991 Gulf War, while the Iraqi people have gone



The Mosul presidential palace, one of eight sites from which inspectors with the United Nations Special Commission on Iraq (Unsc) have been specifically barred

without food," the source added. Pictures taken by American satellites and aerial photographs provided by British reconnaissance aircraft have shown there are 25 palaces in the Baghdad area alone.

Intelligence information on Iraq's military sites and weapons capabilities is far more extensive than before the Gulf War started in January 1991. When Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, only minimal Western intelligence resources were being devoted to the region.

Since then the Americans, and to a lesser extent the British, have made Iraq a top intelligence-gathering priority. "We are now in a much better position in terms of knowing Iraq's capabilities than we were in 1990-1991 and we have a much clearer picture of what the Iraqis are up to," the source said.

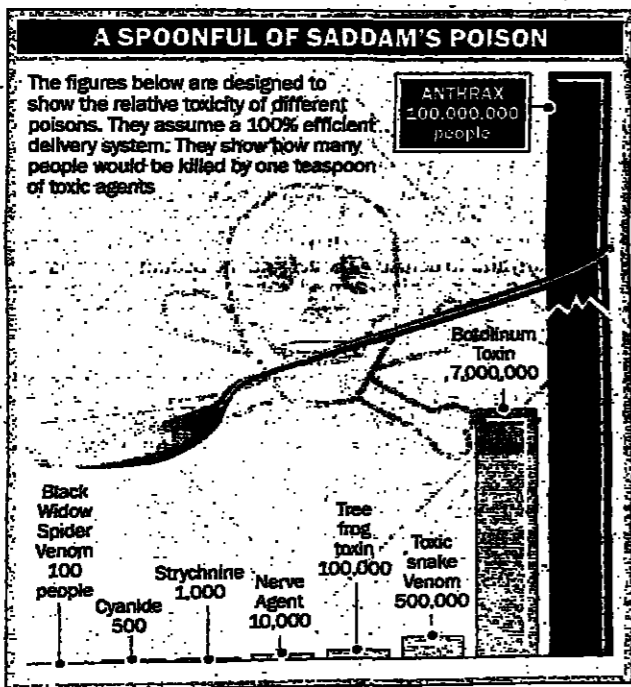
Based on the reconnaissance photographs, the US and British military have watched the movement of Saddam's Republican Guard divisions, some of which have been relocated to the south, where the minority Shia communities live, "to prevent uprisings". Other Republican Guard divisions have been

divided between the rest of the Iraqi Army and Baghdad to protect Saddam's regime. The intelligence source said Saddam now had 23 divisions, totalling about 400,000 troops and 2,200 tanks — about the level of the early 1980s. The Special Republican Guards, a force set up to protect Saddam

himself, now consisted of 15,000 officers. The senior defence intelligence source added: "Saddam has enough of a military capability to take Kuwait again, but his weakness is in logistics."

David Owen, page 20  
Leading article, page 21

## German expertise helped to build up Iraq's poison arsenal



GERMAN businessmen, their margins squeezed by a faltering economy, have been boosting their profits by selling President Saddam Hussein the know-how and materials needed to construct his nuclear, biological and chemical warfare programmes.

Although many European countries — including Britain — have been trading with Saddam, German know-how in biochemical weaponry has given it an edge. Diplomats speak of "droves" of German scientists and businessmen travelling to and from Baghdad over the last few years. "The flight from Zurich was always chock-a-block," said one diplomat monitoring German contacts with Iraq.

Much of the evidence — which has come to light in recent trials — is related to the period before the Gulf War or to the early 1990s, but it is clear that some projects, set up

with German help, are being continued. Eleven German companies have been investigated for their role in building nuclear plants. Managers from one company, Havert, have just been jailed for two to three-year terms. Anton Eyerte, the owner of Rhein-Bayern-Fahrzeugbau, was jailed for 5½ years for participating in Iraqi missile development. But the engineer described as the key figure in Iraq's missile programme, Karl-Heinz Schaab, has fled to Brazil.

It was, however, the switch of emphasis from nuclear missiles — easily targeted by a Western force — to biological weapons that has drawn most heavily on German skills. Executives of the Hamburg-based Water Engineering Trading Company were arrested for supplying technology to Iraq designed to produce poison gas. The company claimed it was a plant for processing pesticide. Swiss experts backed the prosecution's claim that the factory was suitable for making poison gas. But defence witnesses, such as Professor Wolfgang Mozzuk, argued that "even a kitchen sink can be suitable for producing poison gas". This highlighted the prob-

lem of nailing culprits in the biochemical weapons trade. Of 56 inquiries into German firms, only six have ended with jail terms. At least 15 have had to be dropped because of the difficulty of proving that Saddam was using the plant for war purposes rather than for pesticides. "All I can say is, judging by the flow of German exports, Saddam must have a huge insect problem," the diplomat monitoring trade with Iraq said.

The biological and chemical arsenal of Saddam's is made up of substances that have been traditional specialities of German scientists. Sarin nerve gas was developed by German (and Japanese) scientists in the 1930s and 1940s; anthrax — perhaps the most feared biological weapon — was developed in several European centres, but it was the Germans who conducted the most thorough research.

German expertise in biochemical weapons was, however, not much in demand until the Iran-Iraq War. For the Germans it was the money that made it worth their while to continue their involvement. From his hiding place Dr Schaub spoke frankly to *Der Spiegel*: "I began because in difficult times my company

needed a strong, rich customer." If the worst comes to the worst, Saddam can still take cover in his 19,260 sq ft bomb-proof underground bunker. Designed by a Düsseldorf company and furnished by a Munich firm, it has special air filters in case the war overground becomes too hot.

The chance to make quick profits led firms to sell Baghdad their know-how, writes Roger Boyes in Bonn



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'In the mainstream Victoria would be lost. Who would play with her?'

Closing schools for children with special needs would be a disaster, parents and teachers tell Bill Frost



Victoria Davison, 9, suffers from autism. Although she is at the "able end" of the scale, the time she spent in a mainstream school was disastrous, her mother says

With her long fair curls and cherubic smile, Victoria Davison looks as though she has stepped from the set of a television commercial: a child from an ideal world where the sun shines and life is always sweet. Her mother, Lynn, tells a different story...

the equation that she is too modest to mention: the almost saintly patience and kindness of staff who care for special needs children. A visit to Springfield's main building...

Springfield can be a chastening experience for lesser mortals

become "that different family" as far as other people were concerned. "The more handicapped the child, the more that feeling encroaches on life, the more painful it is and the more depression there must be."

kind but they are unlikely to choose a disabled child as a friend. Community support for Springfield is enormous. Local businessmen and organisations across west Oxfordshire are always willing to help in any way they can...

Don't kiss the birds

Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrod's, likes to be associated with beauty - not only does he employ attractive women, but he has also been seen with a couple of gorgeous cockatoos perched on his shoulders...

MEDICINE CHEST

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

costs that are of general importance in medicine. The second species that gives rise to trouble is C. pneumoniae, which can cause outbreaks of pneumonia in young people...

patient suffers from a urethral discharge and has severe pain on passing water. In women chlamydial infections are more damaging, and often more insidious as they can remain hidden for months or even years...

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VITAMIN C+ZINC MAY BENEFIT SOME YOUNG WOMEN.

Advertisement for Redoxon Double Action, showing a box of the product with 'EFFERESCENT DOUBLE ACTION' and 'High Strength Double Action 26 Tablets'.

Large advertisement on the right edge of the page, featuring a man's face and the word 'Still' at the top, with various promotional offers and a phone number at the bottom.

Handwritten text in Arabic script at the bottom of the page.



















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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 17 1998

Merger could create £1.2bn fifth force in food retailing with loss of 850 jobs

Somerfield and Kwik Save in talks

By FRASER NELSON

KWIK SAVE and Somerfield, the supermarket chains struggling to keep pace with the likes of Tesco and Asda, are in merger talks which could lead to the creation of a £1.2 billion fifth force in food retailing at the cost of more than 850 jobs.

SOMERFIELD

which will have a 16 per cent share of the UK's £93 billion grocery market. Kwik Save's head office in Prestatyn, North Wales, which employs 800, is expected to be the first casualty of the merger. The future of 200 stores which overlap is also uncertain.

Although the City has been speculating about a takeover for weeks, advisers to both companies said talks only began over the weekend and are still in their early stages. The companies hope to achieve £50 million of cost savings by pooling their distribution arms, achieving greater buying power and by taking Somerfield's fresh food displays in Kwik Save's mainly dry food supermarkets.

has a low opinion of both chains. One analyst said: "This is a story of two weak companies getting together to wallow in their own misery. Its not so much one and one making three, but minus one and minus two making minus two. It's still a negative."



field will try to command a mid-market, billing itself as cheaper than late-opening convenience stores, but at a more central location. Depending on how the merger is structured, directors of both companies may be able to cash in their share options. This would mean little to Kwik Save directors, who need the share price to jump by some 30 per cent before they can claim a penny. However, Somerfield has a long-term share incentive plan which issued share options to the participating directors. This would mean £1.7m million for Mr Simons on top of his direct shareholding, valued at £3.37 million yesterday.

Somerfield and 22 per cent of Kwik Save. Although the supermarkets would command fifth place in the supermarket sector in terms of sales, both are substantially less profitable than their peers. Their combined profits are expected to be £177 million. Safeway, the next largest supermarket, is expected to generate £416 million of profit. At last night's closing prices, Somerfield was valued at £764 million against the £480 flotation price 18 months ago. Kwik Save was valued at £479 million - less than half its 1995 peak of £1.1 billion.

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BUSINESS TODAY

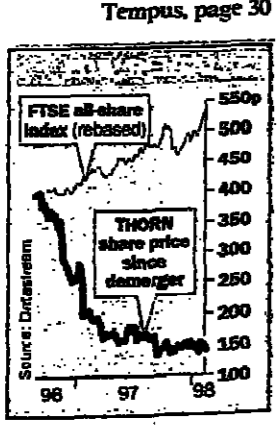
Table with financial data including Stock Market Indices (FTSE 100, FTSE All share, Nikkei, New York, Dow Jones, S&P Composite), US Rate, LONDON MONEY, STERLING, DOLLAR, NORTH SEA OIL, and GOLD.

Chief resigns as Thorn issues warning

By FRASER NELSON

MIKE METCALF, chief executive of Thorn since its ill-fated demerger from EMI, resigned yesterday with a £350,000 payoff yesterday as the Radio Rentals and Crazy George's group issued its third profits warning.

Shares in Thorn, which have dived from 402p since the demerger, lost a further 5 per cent to close at 146p as the company said that Steven Marshall, finance director, will succeed Mr Metcalf and pursue the same strategy. Thorn also gave warning that its Rent-A-Center chain in the US is again being sued by rivals over allegations of mis-pricing in Alabama. The challenge comes seven months after the company made an £17.1 million provision for settling a separate legal battle in Minnesota.



Tempus, page 30



The number of cars that used Le Shuttle totalled 232 million, some 190,000 short of the "downside case" that Eurotunnel forecast last May

Tunnel misses third traffic target

By ADAM JONES AND FRASER NELSON

EUROTUNNEL revealed yesterday that it failed to meet its own traffic forecasts for the third year in a row in 1997. At the same time it reported a net loss of £61 million for the year. The financial result was an improvement on the £75 million loss in 1996. The loss would have been £330 million had the company's recent re-financing been effective through the whole of 1997. Eurotunnel said cashflow and operating profits of £57 million were better than forecast. The shares closed 2p higher at 65p.

The number of cars that used its Le Shuttle service totalled 232 million last year - some 190,000 short of the "downside case" it forecast while negotiating its £4.4 million debt-for-equity swap last May. The tourist coach service, which Eurotunnel had forecast would take 80,000 coaches through the tunnel in 1997, fell 20 per cent short of this target, carrying only 64,579.

The company also showed that Eurostar, run by London & Continental Railways, finished almost 600,000 passengers short of the 6.6 million Eurotunnel had forecast. The Anglo-French company was not able to run any freight shuttle services for the first half of the year after the fire in 1996. Some restrictions still exist on capacity, although the group hopes to have reached an agreement with safety authorities by the summer. Shuttle service turnover fell from 1996's revised figure of £141 million to £113 million. Railways revenue rose from £191 million to £212 million.

Patrick Ponsolle, group executive chairman, said construction of a new rail link to the tunnel, endangered by the financial woes of London & Continental, was vital for the economic interests of the UK. He said it would be acceptable for work to start on a short-term option as a first stage.

Tempus, page 30

Lloyds TSB share-save scheme helps to create 50 millionaires

By RICHARD MILES BANKING CORRESPONDENT

UP TO 50 millionaires have been created among the senior staff at Lloyds TSB, the UK's largest high-street bank, by the relentless rise in its share price over recent years.

A generous share option scheme has enabled many of the bank's executives to build up paper fortunes of seven figures or more. Executive board directors have taken the lion's share of the spoils. However hundreds of more junior staff members are also believed to have accumulated share portfolios worth hundreds of thousands of pounds. One messenger at the bank's head office in the City is said to have saved shares worth £300,000 through the employee share option scheme.

less rise in the bank's share price as the company has outstripped its rivals, which include Barclays and NatWest. Since the beginning of the decade, Lloyds TSB shares have roughly doubled in value every two-and-a-half years. Once the smallest of the Big Four banks on the British high-street, it is now the most

valuable bank in the world with a market capitalisation of more than £47 billion. During the past 12 months alone, staff have seen their share holdings almost double in value, as strong demand in the market for financial shares has pushed up the price of Lloyds TSB. The bank was trading at £5 in March 1997. Yesterday, its

shares finished the day at £9. Lloyds TSB said that a number of executives could have been with the bank long enough to build up shares and share options worth £1 million or more, but could not say how many. "Our employees have done well because the share price has done well. We encourage people to participate in the bank's profits by taking

shares," said the bank. Unveiling record pre-tax profits of £3.16 billion last Friday, Sir Brian Pitman, the chairman, said 50,000 staff and pensioners held shares. The bank had generated £25 billion in value for shareholders since its merger with TSB in December 1995. "Low inflation and low interest rates are clearly very good for banks."

four top positions at the FSA remain vacant, including finance director, and said announcements would be made shortly. The FSA also said that Keith Oates, executive deputy chairman of Marks & Spencer and head of its financial services arm, had joined the board. The accounts also show that transitional costs amounted to £13 million, which will be added to members' fees in later years.

City Diary, page 31



Oates joins FSA board

UBS takes brunt of equities staff cuts

By RICHARD MILES BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT 200 staff in the equities division of UBS, the investment bank, are to lose their jobs as a result of its merger with Swiss Bank Corporation, the two banks confirmed yesterday.

The cuts represent about 50 per cent of the highly rated equities team at UBS, which includes 65 research analysts. No more than a handful of SBC Warburg equities staff will be offered redundancy. Hector Santis, from UBS and now co-head of European equities at the new combined operation, known as Warburg Dillon Read, said the staff would not technically leave the company until March 2 for regulatory reasons.

Unwanted UBS staff will receive their annual bonuses, payable at the end of the month, plus a generous redundancy package. Mr Santis said. Yesterday's announcement comes after a 30 per cent reduction in UBS's corporate finance team last year. Colin Buchan, joint head of global equities at Warburg Dillon Read, said virtually all of the 400 equities staff at SBC would be made offers of employment. Terms would be decided over the next few weeks, he said.

Up to 3,000 London staff are expected to lose their positions as a result of the £15 billion merger. The axe is expected to fall heaviest on UBS staff, with reports of a 75 per cent casualty rate. However, fewer jobs have been lost at UBS than originally forecast.

Advertisement for John Charcol mortgage services. Text includes: 'We'll fix your mortgage to 1.2.2002. No redemption penalties - no worries.' and 'JOHN CHARCOL 0800 71 81 91'. Includes a small graph showing mortgage rates.

**Blunkett to name Skills Task Force chief**

**By Janet Bush Economics Editor**

**DAVID BLUNKETT**, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, is today expected to name **Chris Humphries**, recently appointed as director general of the British Chambers of Commerce, as chairman of the Government's new Skills Task Force.

Mr Humphries, chief executive of the Tec National Council, comes to the job of spearheading a national effort to raise the level of skills in the economy with experience from both the public and private sectors. His expertise has mostly been in education and training.

Mr Blunkett announced the creation of the Task Force at the CBI Conference last November. It is charged with advising how best to develop a national skills agenda, co-ordinating the efforts of Government and industry to identify skills gaps and then bridging them to ensure that the economy can work at high levels of employment without igniting inflation.

One of Mr Humphries' first jobs will be to co-ordinate a series of regional conferences planned for next month that will bring together key players to consult on skills strategies at local levels.

Mr Blunkett is likely to announce the other members of the Task Force within the next few weeks.

Mr Humphries has been in his current post for four years and was previously managing director of Hertfordshire Training and Enterprise Council. He has also worked for the National Council for Educational Technology, ICL and Acorn Computers.

Skilling Britain in new technologies is a centre-piece of the Government's efforts to modernise the economy and ensure that it can compete in the high value added industries that it believes have the most potential for creating jobs in the future.

# Rupiah collapses as IMF threatens to veto rescue

**By Alasdair Murray Economics Correspondent**

THE **INDONESIAN** rupiah collapsed yesterday as the IMF's threat to veto its \$43 billion (£26 billion) rescue package raised the spectre of a total meltdown in the country's economy.

Michel Camdessus, managing director of the IMF, confirmed the IMF would halt its bail-out programme if Indonesia went ahead with the idea of propping up the rupiah through a currency board.

"The risk a currency board

would entail for the success of the programme was such that as we will have a review of the programme in early March, the executive board would interrupt the programme financing," Mr Camdessus said following a meeting with European Union finance chiefs yesterday.

However, a senior Indonesian minister admitted yesterday his Government is examining the possibility of a currency board and hoped to discuss the issue with the IMF. A currency board would establish a fixed exchange rate

for the Indonesian currency against the dollar by ensuring the rupiah is fully backed by hard currency.

The rupiah slumped 24 per cent from 7,300 to the dollar to close at 9,800 to the dollar, having at one stage touched as low as 10,800. Other Asian currencies also suffered in the rupiah's wake, although traders said the more modest losses suggested that neighbouring currencies were establishing some resistance to the rupiah's woes.

The currency board battle has also hampered plans to ease the country's private sector debt problems. A steering committee of foreign creditors admitted yesterday that it could make no progress until the issue is resolved.

The IMF's position received support from Gordon Brown who said it would be "premature" for Indonesia to move towards a currency board. Germany and the United States have also expressed reservations about the idea.

The Chancellor is due to meet with James Wolfensohn, president of the World Bank, to discuss the growing social

**BUSINESS ROUNDUP**

## Chief of Nationwide letting division leaves

THE head of Nationwide Building Society's loss-making residential letting division has left the company he founded a decade ago. Paul Mugnaioni, chairman of Quality Street, the Glasgow-based rental company, has left the company by mutual agreement. Quality Street will now be run by Graham Beale, who was formerly finance director. The society would not say how much it had paid Mr Mugnaioni to leave, but added that it intended to become the sole owner of Quality Street. At present it owns 79 per cent, with Mr Mugnaioni holding some of the remaining shares.

Nationwide said that it had £150 million invested in Quality Street, which comprises a portfolio of 4,500 properties around the country worth a total of £132 million. Last year, Quality Street recorded a loss of £11.2 million, on a turnover of £20 million. Nationwide initially provided loans for Quality Street, but then converted the loans in to an equity stake.

## Courtaulds looks east

**COURTAULDS**, the chemicals group, is looking to Asia for a joint venture partner for its struggling viscose business after talks with Lenzing, its Austrian competitor, came to naught. Courtaulds's viscose operations have been a drag on the company's fibre division, holding back a profits recovery. Courtaulds is one of the top three producers of viscose, alongside Lenzing and Birla of India. Huge viscose capacity additions have kept prices and margins weak.

## CSFB in Australian deal

**CREDIT SUISSE FIRST BOSTON** yesterday announced plans to buy the outstanding 75 per cent of First Pacific Stockbrokers, the Australian investment bank. CSFB, which already owns 25 per cent, said the acquisition was part of a strategy to rebuild its global equities franchise. The terms of yesterday's deal were not disclosed. Tony MacNab, managing director of First Pacific, will retire after handing over the company to its new owners.

## ISS 'not contacted'

**INTERNATIONAL SERVICE SYSTEM (ISS)**, the Danish business services group, said it had "not been contacted by any representatives" of Rentokil Initial, its British rival. Shares in Rentokil rose 4 per cent in a day last week on speculation that it was poised to bid for ISS. Sir Clive Thompson, the chairman, said last August the company would be able to fund a big deal but would probably wait more than a year. Shares in Rentokil slipped 6p to 282p.

## BA halts Colombo flights

**BRITISH AIRWAYS** is halting services to Colombo because of mounting losses on the route, but is entering a joint marketing agreement with Air Lanka, Sri Lanka's national carrier. BA also said it will increase capacity on international routes by 8 per cent over the summer. The biggest increases will be on flights to South America, Central America, the Caribbean and North America. The airline said the Sri Lankan move is purely commercial and not based on terrorist activity on the island.

## SkyePharma issue

**SKYEPHARMA**, the drug delivery company, has topped up its coffers with £9.9 million from an American-style debenture issue. The debentures, which are unsecured, have been issued to investors at a \$1.6 million (£960,000) discount to their nominal value of \$18.6 million. The stock is convertible into SkyePharma shares, initially at 90p per share but after six months at a price based on the recent market price. SkyePharma's shares yesterday fell 5p to 50p.

## Thai Airways suffers loss

**THAI Airways International** said it faced a 26.7 billion baht (£343 million) operating loss in the October to December first quarter because of big foreign exchange losses after the baht's sharp fall. The loss, equivalent to 19.05 baht per share, compares with a profit of 1.5 billion baht, or 1.07 baht per share, in the same period a year earlier. Thai Airways said it had suffered a net overall foreign exchange loss of 27.03 billion baht during the October to December quarter.

## Royalblue issues denial

**ROYALBLUE**, the producer of software for call centres and electronic trading systems, yesterday insisted it had not issued a profits warning, after shares in the company dived 30p to 340p. Shares fell after the company said it expected a slowdown in growth. Turnover for the year to December 31 was £21 million, while profits rose 50 per cent to £3 million. Earnings per share were up 27 per cent to 7.41p, and a total dividend of 2.25p (1.5p) will be paid on April 3.

## Essex Radio stake sold

**CAPITAL RADIO**, whose £87 million bid for Virgin Radio was gobbled by Chris Evans and then blocked by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, has sold its 30 per cent stake in Essex Radio. The 294,000 shares have been sold to Dailly Mail and General Investments for £21.3 million in cash, giving a gain on disposal of about £5.1 million. David Mansfield, Capital's chief executive, said the sale was part of the company's strategy to have full control over all its stations.

## Cliveden's Czech hope

**CLIVEDEN**, the luxury hotel group, hopes to revive plans for a presence in the Czech Republic. A 1995 scheme for a hotel at the historic Salm Palace in Prague was stymied by a restitution claim on it, but Cliveden expects the claim to be rejected soon. Group pre-tax profits rose 18 per cent, to £2.02 million, in the year to October 31, on turnover of 37 per cent up, at £11.61 million. Earnings per share fell to 5.04p, from 5.69p, after a rights issue. A 1.1p final dividend, due on April 28, makes 2p (1.8p).

## Microvitec in bank deal for survival

**By Chris Ayres**

**MICROVITEC**, the crisis-ridden technology company, yesterday made emergency arrangements with its bank and the Stock Exchange to stay in business.

James Bailey, executive chairman, also hit out at the Government's economic policy, which he said was crippling Britain's small export businesses.

"Small companies cannot compete with the pound where it is and interest rates 75 per cent higher than in other European states," Mr Bailey said.

On Saturday, Microvitec sold its displays division for £1.4 million in cash, after the Stock Exchange allowed the deal to go ahead without shareholder approval.

The division was sold to Ali Hussain, a major shareholder in Conrac Technology. The estimated loss on the disposal was £4.9 million.

Mr Hussain and his partners have also paid £1.73 million to subscribe to nearly 20 million Microvitec shares - subject to shareholder approval - representing a stake of about 30 per cent.

Microvitec will now concentrate on networking and software. Shares in the company remained at 73p, compared with a high of 71½p in 1996.



Lord Young unveiled the screen, which can show fast action images without blurring

## Genesis backs CDT screen

**By Chris Ayres**

AN **UNLIKELY** combination of a tiny Cambridge research company, a Japanese electronics colossus and an ageing British rock band has produced a wafer thin TV screen to be used in everything from computers to mobile phones.

Cambridge Display Technology, chaired by Lord Young of Graffham, yesterday unveiled the product with its new partner, Seiko-Epson

of Japan. CDT's other shareholders include the rock band Genesis, and Intel, the US chip manufacturer.

The company claims that the 2mm-thick screen, based on its patented light-emitting plastic technology, can be viewed from all angles and can show fast action images without blurring.

Danny Chapchal, CDT's chief executive, said that a Philips mobile phone would

probably be on the market by June using the technology. "We are projecting tens of millions of pounds in licence fee and royalties," he said.

The significance of the Seiko deal is that it is a joint development - even though we have only 25 people and they have 45,000. By having this strategy, we retain a significant financial interest."

CDT would eventually consider a flotation or trade sale.

## Healthcall being taken private with £50m offer

**By Paul Durman**

THE executive management of **Healthcall**, the UK's largest provider of out-of-hours doctors, is taking the company private with a £50.1 million offer backed by NatWest Equity Partners.

Maurice Henchey, the chief executive who has an 11.4 per cent stake in Healthcall, is taking about £1.5 million out of the company but will still own 26.5 per cent of HCMS, the acquisition vehicle. Other managers will own nearly 15 per cent between them.

The cash offer values Healthcall at 90p a share, 15p less than at flotation four years ago. Profits have fallen heavily as the Government has discouraged doctors from making home visits and has provided subsidies to rival GP co-operatives. Yesterday it said its 1997 pre-tax profits will be less than £3 million (£5.4 million).

B Elliott, the engineering company, is to be taken private by its directors after terms of an agreed £45 million bid were announced yesterday. The 110p-a-share cash bid has come from Capitalmarket, a company formed to make the offer. Financing has been arranged by Morgan Grenfell Development Capital. B Elliott said it is going private because of poor institutional investor demand for its shares.

## TBI buys Kvaerner's office sites for £73m

**By Carl Mortished**

**TBI**, the property group that owns Cardiff airport, is paying £73 million for Kvaerner's UK property portfolio of seven buildings, but excluding the site of the Baltic Exchange in the City and a 30-acre property in Chiswick, West London.

The Anglo-Norwegian company is gradually shedding the portfolio it inherited from the takeover of Trafalgar House, the engineering and construction group. Kvaerner said it would make a profit of \$24 million (£15 million) on the

\$116 million sale price which reflects rental income of £6 million.

The properties include offices in the City, the West End and Edinburgh, a business park in Basildon, Essex, and a shopping precinct in Otley, West Yorkshire. The Baltic Exchange site at St Mary Axe is to be redeveloped and sold to Swiss Re but Kvaerner has yet to find a buyer for Chiswick Park, which has planning permission for 1.25 million sq ft of offices.

## Caradon sells Fabco to Krupp for £77.5m

**By Kathy Lipari**

**CARADON**, the building materials group, has sold Fabco, its Canadian automotive operation, to Krupp Hoesch Automotive for £77.5 million.

Peter Jansen, chief executive, said the sale closed the book on the group's involvement in the automotive industry.

Caradon acquired Fabco in 1993 and last valued the group at £15.8 million with goodwill of £35.5 million.

Mr Jansen said the sale was part of Caradon's ongoing divestment of non-core assets and that the funds raised from the sale would be used to reduce its borrowings.

Fabco reported turnover of £107.4 million and an operating profit of £9.6 million in 1996.

The sale to Krupp, a major German industrial group, represented a positive step for Fabco, its customers and employees, Caradon said.

Caradon's shares finished 2½p weaker at 169p yesterday.

## Saatchi & Saatchi to fight liability in US coins case

**From Oliver August in New York**

**SAATCHI & Saatchi**'s North American arm is facing a \$31 million (£20 million) liability from a six-year legal battle that involves a former subsidiary, the US Olympic Committee, and Greg Louganis, the US diving gold medalist who shot to fame when he hit his head on a diving board.

The case is part of a scandal over marketing proceeds that led to the resignation of top US Olympic Committee members, including Robert Heineke, the president. It is alleged that US Olympic athletes were being ripped off.

A Saatchi spokesman said: "The company believes the case has no merit. It's a very complex case and we were forced to disclose the indemnity ruling under Stock Exchange listing rules. It's a nightmare from the past rearing its head again. This is a six-year-old situation that has been rumbling on in the background and was thrown out of court three times before."

The case is the latest of many US legal entanglements to affect UK companies. GKN, the engineer, faces a \$700 million damages suit through owning a firm called Meisner Mufflers.

Table with exchange rates for various currencies (Australia, Canada, etc.)

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# Merger will not offer a Kwik fix



## COMMENTARY by our City Editor

Two weeks don't make a strong case for understanding why Kwik Save and Somerfield feel the urge to huddle together but, while it might bring them a little temporary comfort it would not bring long-term security. On the contrary, if the merger of these two second rate players proceeds, it may even ease the way for Asda and Safeway to join forces and strengthen the competition in what is already a fiercely competitive market.

Apparently, PDPM is keen to see Kwik Save and Somerfield coming together. Who but the self-proclaimed value investor could have in its portfolio 20 per cent stakes in both the dogs of the grocery sector? PDPM has a record of perceiving value where others fail to spot it. This tends to explain its drastic under-performance rather than the international banking conspiracy theory that fund manager Tony Dye is now broaching.

Kwik Save has a formula and image which, back to the days when Tesco was still the field of Sir Jack Cohen and no ordinary customer would expect a supermarket to offer pink au chocolat alongside the large sliced white. It has a portfolio of stores which are largely the wrong size and in the wrong place for today's shoppers. The company might have done better

to have paid £13 million for a decent burial than handing it over to Arthur Andersen in return for a grandiose and expensive blueprint for a resurrection which could never be accomplished.

In the merger now being planned, Kwik Save would effectively vanish but Somerfield is only marginally better equipped for long-term survival. David Simons has done remarkably to structure what he has out of the rag bag that emerged from one of the last great leveraged buyouts of the last decade, but Somerfield still lacks a genuine raison d'être.

Given the scale of their operations, he and his colleagues could have been expected to be hoping that this year might bring an easy, and profitable, exit in the shape of a takeover but a merger which dubs itself with such brutal realism as "nil premium" must be bitterly disappointing. But their coming together will fuel the debate over how far the concentration of the grocery industry should be allowed to proceed. During his reign at Tesco, Lord MacLaurin argued that he should be allowed to take over one

of the other UK majors — he had Asda in his sights. But the official line insisted that such a move would be anti-competitive.

If Asda were now able to point to Tesco, Sainsbury and the new Kwikfield as having substantial market shares, would Margaret Beckett be so inclined to prevent it helping Safeway out of its increasingly uncomfortable rut?

### Hands has more up his sleeve

When Nomura withdrew from the line up of potential suitors for the Energy Group, there were gleeful whispers that the bank's innovative financiers might just be running out of steam. Having made the Japanese bank an unseemly profit on Angel Trains and earned himself a salary of a

cool £40 million, it was predictable that Guy Hands would find a few City folk surreptitiously stroking banana skins where he might tread.

But while the tussle over Energy is degenerating into a slugging match that sane men might best avoid, Mr Hands yesterday demonstrated that he is not slipping yet. In parcelling out a package of his pubs to Scottish & Newcastle, he has organised a useful turn for Nomura even before ownership is his. Quite how useful Mr Hands is not saying, but S&N is not being mean in paying £206 million for the chance to cherry pick.

What Mr Hands is ably demonstrating is that securitisation is not his only route to realising a profit on the multiple purchases he stacked up last year. Betting shop chain William Hill, for instance, bought for £700 mil-

lion, is to be the subject of what unkind people would refer to as a £200 million junk bond issue next month.

Those who would like to see Mr Hands falter point to the vulnerability of businesses such as betting shops and pubs to a downturn in consumer spending but the gentle slowdown, rather than recession, which is now in prospect should leave punters with the cash to continue indulging their vices. That will enable Nomura to service its debt and hang on to some profit.

A rent strike by hundreds of landlords at the Spring Inn pubs which form part of the package Nomura has bought would clearly endanger the income flow, but strong action is already underway to remedy that. New legal proceedings are being fired off at the impressive rate of 50 a week to dissuade landlords from

the belief that they can withhold their rent while they argue over whether they have been treated fairly under European law.

In many of these cases, won't pay will soon turn to can't pay, but Mr Hands is unlikely to be overly sympathetic.

### Pay for the game-keepers

The new Financial Services Authority produced a tough budget for itself yesterday, but faces something of a problem in implementing it: the lack of a finance director.

Recruiting senior staff for the new super-regulator continues to be hampered by the reluctance of individuals to forgo the hefty salaries they are paid by City institutions and the equal reluctance of those institutions to second their best people.

The FSA is doing its best to address the problem of salary by incorporating in its budget an increase of close to 10 per cent in pay packets. That will hardly stop the recipients (feeling green when they read about the bo-

nuses being paid out on the other side of the regulatory fence, even if regulator-in-chief, Howard Davies, can assure them that financial services salaries in general are only rising 9.6 per cent.

When even Lloyds TSB can create around 50 paper millionaires, courtesy of an effective option scheme and a stunning share price performance — justified, it must be said, by results — then the regulator's life may appear less than rewarding.

The task for Mr Davies is to make a spell in regulation appear as career-enhancing as it does in the United States. Then it may attract the high-fliers that it needs, prepared to sacrifice a couple of years of bonuses for valuable game-keeping experience.

### Astec warriors

SOME pretty Jurassic posturing by Astec's American majority shareholder has been needed to persuade six prominent institutional investors to put their heads above the parapet and take their complaints to court. Let's hope they enjoy the experience. No, we don't want everyone rushing to court but we do want big shareholders to hold hands more often so that they can stand up in public to the bullies who still prowls many boardrooms.

### Parkland's ex-chief seeks £1m

By JASON NISSE

BRYAN LODDER, who was sacked last month as chairman and chief executive of Parkland Group, is claiming nearly £1 million compensation from the struggling Yorkshire textile company.

The board dismissed Mr Lodder saying that his "plans for the future were unrealistic and we lost confidence in him".

Among these plans were a \$28 million (£11.4 million) joint venture, which Parkland is now reviewing, and an investment in Austops, an Australian group, which has now been sold for a small loss.

Mr Lodder was paid £304,000 last year and had been on a two-year contract until a few days before his sacking.

It is understood that his lawyers are claiming that the two-year contract should still apply because the Parkland board knew it was going to sack him before the change came into effect. The total claimed is worth more than three years' salary.

# Chevron and Shell in Caspian deal

By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor

SHELL and Chevron have joined forces to develop their energy interests in the Caspian Sea region in an agreement that will step up competition in one of the world's most highly prized oil provinces.

The Anglo-Dutch company signed a co-operation agreement with its US rival yesterday, which will bring Shell's financial muscle and expertise in pipeline infrastructure to Chevron, which has a half-share in the eight billion barrel Tengiz field in Kazakhstan, one of the world's largest oilfields.

Chevron indicated yesterday that the agreement could result in vast projects that could equal or exceed the \$2 billion Caspian Pipeline Consortium in which both companies are shareholders. Ken Derr, chairman of Chevron, said: "We envision projects of a scale that would generate significant value for the people of the region and our shareholders."

The agreement envisages each company having an

equal share in new projects in the exploration and production, transport and marketing of oil and gas. The Tengiz field is not part of the agreement and neither company would provide details of projects but Mark Moody-Stuart, Shell Transport's chairman, said the Caspian offered great opportunities and emphasised Shell's "vision of cross-border transportation systems".

Transport is critical in the Caspian region where oil is plentiful but markets are thousands of miles away. The 900-mile Caspian Pipeline is aimed at shipping oil from Tengiz to the Black Sea, but Chevron is currently shipping small amounts of Tengiz oil by truck and train to Russia.

"In addition to project management skill, Shell brings its recent alliance with Gazprom, which could provide important advantages in a region where Russian institutions still hold power."

The Chevron alliance brings Shell into a province it initially ignored, preferring to pursue deals in Russia. Ironically, Shell's strategy encountered greater political obstacles than its rivals found in the Caspian. Shell is already involved in discussions over a pipeline from Turkmenistan to Turkey and the two companies may be considering Southern export routes to Pakistan and east to China.



Tim Dunningham, left, chief executive, and Walter Goldsmith greeting Flying Flowers results yesterday

### Marston's board revamped

By DOMINIC WALSH

MARSTON, Thompson & Evershed, the regional brewer and pub operator, has revamped its board in a bid to revive its flagging fortunes.

Nick Letcher, the former Bass executive who joined as finance director last July, has been made chief executive, and David Gordon, managing director, has left with an estimated £130,000 payoff.

Michael Hurdie, the veteran chairman, is to become non-executive once a new finance director is appointed. Mr Letcher is to focus resources on rolling out the Pincher and Piano pub brand Marston's acquired in 1996. Since then it has added only six to the original seven sites, although Mr Letcher believes its target of 50 by 2000 is achievable. It is also trialling a Mediterranean café bar concept — Via Vita. One source said it was preparing to sell off "a few dozen" pubs.

Tempus, page 30

# S&N pays £206m to Grand Pub for 311 houses

By DOMINIC WALSH

SCOTTISH & Newcastle moved a step closer to having an exclusively managed pub estate yesterday as it announced the £206 million acquisition of 311 pubs from Nomura International's Grand Pub Company.

To stay within its permitted limit of tied pubs under the terms of Beer Orders, S&N is to sell or release from tie 311 of its existing pubs.

Most of these, which are largely tenanted, will be sold, reducing the group's tenanted estate to about 300 pubs, compared with 700 at the end last year.

Brian Stewart, S&N chief executive, said the tenanted Grand Pub Company units would gradually be converted to S&N's branded concepts, such as Chef & Brewer, Rat & Parrot and John Barras. The 60 being operated under tem-

porary tenancies will be converted within the first year.

Mr Stewart estimated the total price of the 311 pubs, including acquisition and conversion costs plus buying out longer-term tenants, would be about £1 million per pub.

Within three years, S&N expects to have an estate of 2,350 managed pubs, of which two-thirds will be branded.

The deal is expected to go through on March 27, immediately after Grand Pub's acquisition of the 4,300-strong Intrepreneur and Spring Inns estate. Only a handful of the pubs, most of which are in the south of England, are the subject of continuing litigation by Intrepreneur licensees.

Intrepreneur said they were being sold because they were bigger units more suited to being operated as managed rather than tenanted houses.

### Flying Flowers delivers £6m

FLYING FLOWERS, the mail-order horticultural company, lifted pre-tax profits 59 per cent, to £6.25 million, in the year to January 2 on sales up 29 per cent, to £45.3 million. Earnings per share rose 37 per cent, to 20p. The year's dividend rises to 7.35p, from 5.45p, via a final dividend up to 4.90p (2.18p). Walter Goldsmith, chairman, said: "We are very optimistic about our future growth." The shares rose 8p to 502½p.

### Renewable energy firm secures £43m

AN ENERGY company set up four years ago to generate renewable power from domestic waste has secured £43.5 million of funding and hopes to get another £30 million by next century (Chris Ayres writes). Energy Power Resources Limited (EPRL) hopes to benefit from the Government's target of getting 10 per cent of all power from renewable sources by 2010. EPRL's first power station is to be built at Westfield, Fife. Electra Fleming, the private equity specialist, is providing EPRL with £23.7 million. The rest of the £43.5 million funding will come mainly from the Bank of Scotland. David Williams, chief executive of EPRL — which also produces power from wood, straw and water — plans to float the company in the next few years.

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Treasure Plus	£100-£999	5.50
	£1000-£2499	5.85
	£2500-£4999	6.35
	£5000 and OVER	7.10
Instant Premiums	£50-£999	5.50
	£1000-£2499	5.85
	£2500-£4999	6.35
	£5000 and OVER	7.10
Monthly Merit Income	£250-£999	5.21
	£1000-£1999	CARF 5.34
	£2000-£4999	5.70
	£5000 and OVER	CARF 5.85
TESSA 95 A Follow-Up-TESSA		6.20
		CARF 6.35
YoungSaver	£1-£99	4.15
	£100-£999	5.50
	£1000-£2499	5.85
	£2500-£4999	6.35
	£5000 and OVER	7.10
SeniorSaver	£2500 and OVER	5.50
		CARF 5.85
MeritShare		2.15
		1.72
Closed Accounts		
TESSA 444		7.40
The above rates apply to UK income. Reduced Compound Annual Rate for those who are non-resident in the UK. The rate of UK income tax is 10 per cent. The rate of tax on interest payments is 10 per cent. The rate of tax on dividend payments is 10 per cent. The rate of tax on trust income is 10 per cent. The rate of tax on pension income is 10 per cent. The rate of tax on rental income is 10 per cent. The rate of tax on other income is 10 per cent.		

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Merrill Lynch International ("Merrill Lynch") announces on behalf of The Great Universal Stores P.L.C. ("GUS") that, by means of a formal offer document (the "Offer Document") dated and posted on 16 February 1998 and this advertisement, Merrill Lynch are making an offer on behalf of GUS to acquire all of the shares in Argos plc ("Argos"). The full terms and conditions of the Offer (including details of the procedure for acceptance of the Offer) are set out in the Offer Document. Terms defined in the Offer Document have the same meanings in this advertisement. Cazenove is broker to GUS and broker to the Offer.

A person who accepts the Offer will receive 570p in cash for each Argos Share.

The Offer is, by means of this advertisement, extended to all persons to whom the Offer Document may not be despatched and who hold, or who are entitled to have allotted to them, Argos Shares. Such persons are informed that copies of the Offer Document and the Form of Acceptance are available for collection from The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, Registrar's Department, New Issues Section, P.O. Box 859, Conant House, East Street, Bedford, Bristol BS99 1XZ or The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, Registrars Department, New Issues Section, P.O. Box 633, 5-10 Great Tower Street, London EC3R 5ER.

The Offer will initially be open for acceptance until 3.00 p.m. on 9 March 1998.

The Offer is not being made, directly or indirectly, in or into the United States, Canada, Australia or Japan and neither the Offer Document nor the Form of Acceptance is being or may be mailed or otherwise distributed or sent in or into the United States, Canada, Australia or Japan. Further details relating to overseas Argos Shareholders are set out in Appendix I to the Offer Document.

This advertisement is not being published or otherwise distributed or sent in or into the United States, Canada, Australia or Japan. All persons reading this advertisement (including, without limitation, nominees, trustees and custodians) who would, or otherwise intend to, forward this advertisement, the Offer Document, the Form of Acceptance or any related documents must not distribute, send or mail them in, into or from the United States, Canada, Australia or Japan, and doing so may render invalid any related purported acceptance of the Offer.

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The Directors of GUS accept responsibility for the information contained in this advertisement. To the best of their knowledge and belief (having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case), the information contained in this advertisement is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information.

17 February 1998

STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK Stock Market Writer of the Year

Tadpole leaps as talk circulates of new deal

A MUG is born every minute. Most of them seem to be hell-bent on buying shares in Tadpole Technology...



John Hamer, right, and Andy Malpass, finance director, saw profits at Royalblue rise 50 per cent to £3 million

Profit-taking left Royalblue 27 1/2 p lower at 342 1/2 p after the group unveiled a 50 per cent leap in pre-tax profits to £3 million...

He raised his stake to 1.9 million shares, or 2 per cent of the equity, while Tadpole took the opportunity to raise extra cash...

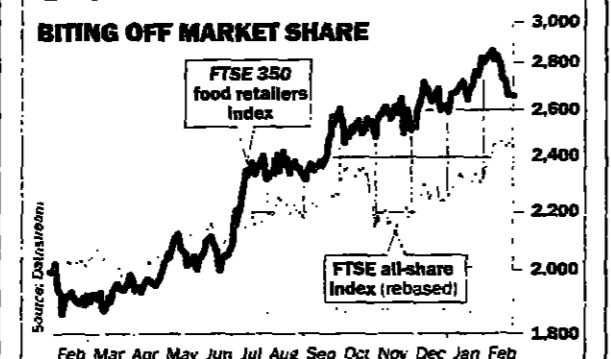
Profits warning turned out to be the last straw for Mike Metcalf, who has resigned as chief executive...

Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, has reiterated its positive stance on Pearson...

Reports began circulating that the chairman was excited by prospects for a new applications software deal...

Alpha Airports held steady at 72 1/2 p. City speculators claim the group may be about to unveil details of a big corporate deal.

There is still no sign of the consortium bid being headed by SBC Warburg for Christie's International...



BROKERS say a revival of the food price war has taken a step closer with the proposed merger of Kwik Save...

Alexanders Holdings rose 5p to 19 1/2 p, with the 'A' shares also adding 5p at 19 1/2 p...

Only last month the Scottish car dealership recorded losses of £987,000 after write-offs totalling £830,000.

Healthcall Group jumped 6p to 87 1/2 p as a bid worth 90p a share was put on the table...

MAJOR INDICES

Table of major stock indices including New York, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, and various European indices.

RECENT ISSUES

Table of recent issues including Athlon Extrusions, Bass B, Diageo B, Euroson Energy, and others.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table of rights issues including Minerva n/p (190), Pentec Eng n/p (183), and others.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table of major changes in stock prices for various companies like Plasmion, Photo-Me, and others.

TEMPUS Bed of Thorns

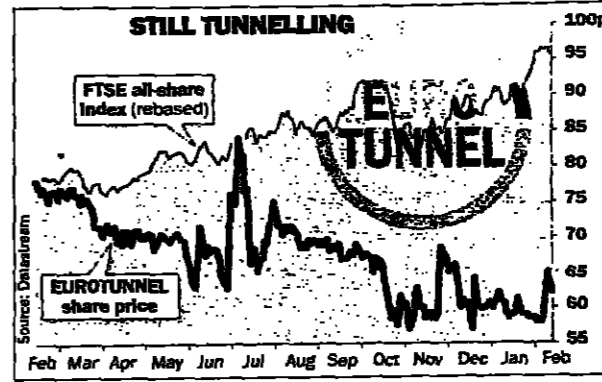
THORN GROUPS strategic review has claimed its first casualty in the form of Mike Metcalf...

Thorn has been flogging off its external television sets and has pots of cash. Even if it does go ahead with a buyback, the shares do not look cheap...

Eurotunnel

INSTEAD of moaning about its lousy traffic figures, Eurotunnel believes the City should look at its 1997 cash flow and operating profit...

won't go away. Take the Eurostar service. Eurotunnel favours the bums-on-seats approach that the Eurostar operators have steered away from...



Healthcall

IT IS two months since Healthcall revealed Maurice Henchey and his management team planned to take the company private...

Government changed the guidelines to encourage more patients to visit the surgery. Healthcall responded by establishing its own network of care centres...

The Government has also provided £140 million to help doctors organise their own out-of-hours cover...

Mr Letch is determined to focus on the group's strongest brands. In brewing that means investing in Marston's Pedigree bitter...

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including LIFFE, ICIS-LUR, GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES, and others.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures including Long Gilt, German Govt Bond, Italian Govt Bond, and others.

DOLLAR RATES

Table of dollar rates for various countries including Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, and others.

FTSE VOLUMES

Table of FTSE volumes for various companies including ASB, ASB Energy, and others.

LIFFE OPTIONS

Table of LIFFE options for various commodities like Copper, Gold, and others.

MONEY RATES (%)

Table of money rates for various banks and currencies.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European money deposits for various currencies and banks.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Beird & Co)

Table of gold and precious metal prices.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates for various currencies.

FTSE INDEX (1982)

Table of FTSE index values for various months and years.

Mix Rates for Feb to

Table of mix rates for various currencies and banks.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates for various currencies.

Advertisement for 'سكدا من الاصل' (Sakda min al-Asl) featuring a stylized logo and text.

# Simon pushes single market up GB agenda

Remember the European single market? Back in the 1980s, the single market was Europe's *raison d'être* — the grand plan to enhance the Continent's prosperity that also achieved the rare feat of uniting Mrs Thatcher, President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl.

Then along came the even more ambitious commitment to economic and monetary union, and the single market plans — while not quite shelved — were quietly shuffled off the agenda at Euro-summits. Even the last Government, which would have preferred that EMU had never been invented, found the demands of trying to resolve its own monetary union policy prevented it from trumpeting the virtues of the single market.

The Blair Government, superficially more at ease with the single currency, has also made attempts to place the single market firmly back on the European agenda. Tony Blair's frequent

## THE BUSINESS OF POLITICS

references to the need for "flexibility" in European markets are not just a thinly veiled attack on continental European labour practices but a reminder that the single market is still a long way from full completion.

Labour's attempts to restore the single market to the heart of Europe have stretched, however, to signing up Lord Simon of Highbury to be the newly created Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe.

The former BP chief executive is the consummate European, with a command of five languages, experience on the European Commission's competition advisory committee and once held a seat on the board of Deutsche Bank. His commitment to the single market is based on hard business experience and he is fond of reminding the listener that Europe is responsible for 40 per cent of total world trade. Unless domestic European markets are competitive, he argues persuasively, companies will not be



ALASDAIR MURRAY

able to compete effectively with the US in developing markets.

However, even Lord Simon has struggled to raise the profile of the single European market. His early days in office were greeted with the now familiar Tory taunts of "Labour sleaze" — in Lord Simon's case the continued ownership of BP share options. Although his innocence has since been confirmed, the allegations were based on "misunderstandings and a misunderstanding of the law on insider trading", he says — he has made few public appearances since the political storm died down in the autumn.

The presidency of the European Union has provided Lord Simon with an opportunity to

push the single market up the agenda. He argues that EMU should not be viewed in isolation from the single market but as its logical extension. "If the single market is not helping to provide flexibility within the markets then there are dangers," he says. EMU is also not the sole obsession of the business world. "Most larger businesses take a different view," he adds. "They talk about the importance of working as hard as possible on completing the single currency."

The continued support of the corporate world for the single market is, however, not being reflected in the political debate. The European Commission has tried to redress this imbalance by producing a comprehensive single market action plan. It contains a highly ambitious implementation timetable and an innovative self-assessment system to score its progress.

Lord Simon accepts that the Government, while offering its full support to the whole single market action plan, can only target a number of issues for resolution during its presidency. Top of the list is the deregulation of the financial services, transport and public procurement markets — a policy likely to provide a significant fillip to British business. The DTI, with the support of David Clark, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, is also keen to try to speed up a programme designed to cut EU red tape and is pushing the interesting idea of establishing business panels to scrutinise prospective European legislation.

The need for compromise in pursuing a major legislative initiative is the biggest difference between business and

## MARKETING

# Open-house policy can be rewarding

Until now the company day out, the latest contract award or a profile of a sales executive plying his trade in some far-flung corner of the world, had been subjects confined to the pages of the company newsletter.

But, albeit tentatively, a number of companies are taking the brave step of letting their key customers and shareholders take a peek through the window into their corporate culture. Companies are making their in-house newsletters and magazines more readily available to trade customers, suppliers and shareholders to give them a more complete picture of the company's operations and staff.

While this might not fit everyone's strict definition of a marketing exercise, it is part of a drive to build up a relationship with the people who are most important to a business — key customers and shareholders. It is a way of welcoming them into the corporate "family".

Graham Lake, managing director of TPD Publishing, the contract publishers, says that the in-house magazine has long been overlooked as a sales and marketing tool. "All a potential customer will get from the sales literature is specification and price. But if you send them a magazine as well, that is going to tell them much more about the kind of company they would be dealing with in the future," he says.

Lasmo, the oil and gas company, has started sending its in-house magazine, *Pipeline*, to some key shareholders. Joe Darby, chief executive, saw the opportunity of communicating to his shareholders something more than merely the price of crude or share performance. The latest issue features an article on the company's new intranet system, an outline of this year's strategy and a profile of the man behind Lasmo's latest coup: the discovery of an oil reservoir deep in the heart of the Libyan desert.

The content goes beyond the essentials of business to show that company concerns go beyond mere profit. Readers learn that Tuareg graves are carefully left undisturbed by the oil excavators and that Lasmo staff are taking an active role in the Karachi rugby club. "It adds a bit of colour," says the editor, Roy Beadle. "We're trying to be open and com-

# Don't panic over the temporary troubles facing South-East Asia



As the West wonders whether the Asian 'tigers' have had their teeth pulled, Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, explains why British companies need to keep a sense of perspective and have faith in the long-term picture

Without doubt, South-East Asia is in the midst of a serious financial crisis. But British companies should avoid the temptation to steer clear of the area or get out while they can. While there is little doubt that times are hard, the difficulties should be seen as a pause in the development of the area, not a halt.

For years we marvelled at rapid growth, first in Japan, more recently in a number of Asian "tiger" economies. It is now clear that in some places this growth was based on financial foundations that were none too secure, and that unsustainably high levels of private sector foreign currency debt were incurred in a number of countries.

Slower growth in Japan has been a fact of life for several years. The sudden slowdown in other Asian countries has come as a shock to those Western companies that had seen continued rapid growth in Asia as an opportunity to escape from more difficult conditions nearer home.

These are very important developments, which could become yet more serious. But it is imperative that we retain a sense of perspective. The impact on the world economy as a whole still seems likely to be somewhat slower growth rather than recession. And since every cloud has a silver lining, we should note that the effects of this and more competitive Asian exports could be a slightly lower path for interest rates across the globe.

Only 3 per cent of our exports go to the five Asian



The currency crisis in South-East Asia prompted panic-buying on the streets of some of the worst-hit countries

countries that have suffered the most serious depreciations since last summer — The Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and South Korea — and two thirds of these exports are concentrated in relatively few sectors. Our exporters of manufactured goods, who depend most on these countries for their sales, are concentrated in leather goods, various kinds of machinery, aircraft and aero-engines. But none sells more than 10 per cent of their exports by value into these.

This does not mean that particular firms will not be hard hit. It does mean this effect should not be so dramatic.

With the depreciations there is, of course, a huge incentive for Asian companies to export more if they can. However, if they are deeply in debt they may not reduce their foreign currency prices, too so they can rebuild their finances and pay off debt. Something similar happened, after all, in UK firms following our exit from the ERM.

Japan, Singapore and Taiwan are other markets that are facing difficulties, but have suffered less from depreciation. They are major exporters into the markets of the world, with Japan and Singapore together now responsible for 15 per cent of world export of goods. We have to expect much increased competitive pressure in export markets from them. In time, these indirect effects in third markets may be more significant in total than the direct effect on our ex-

ports to the countries in difficulty.

Other effects may arise because some inward investors in the West may be pressed to switch production back home, and others may find that they have to revise their plans for a while. Meanwhile, much reduced asset and stock prices in a number of Asian markets will provide buying opportunities for our companies, which some are already beginning to take.

If the overall impact is hard to read, what should the response be both for governments and for firms? The international institutions have been making great efforts to underpin the finances of those

# Two out of five

THIS column would like to wish a happy anniversary to the Institute of Actuaries. I am informed that the organisation was formed in 1848, so it is within the range of statistical error that it should now be 150 years old. To celebrate this fact, the Institute's president, Duncan Ferguson (no relation to the unruly Everton striker of the same name), decided to hold a maths competition, and invited other professional bodies to take part.

Thankfully, the actuaries won —

though with correct answers for only 88 per cent of the questions. Second were the patent agents, with 79 per cent. The accountants, worryingly, scored just 68 per cent and the bankers 64 per cent.

But the real laggards, with correct answers for only two in five of the questions, were the reinsurers. This might explain why Lloyd's of London got into such a mess.



its legal presence. Keen followers of the professions will know that Arthur Andersen already owns the fine solicitors firm of Garretts, with offices in those leading business locations, Leeds and Reading.

Rumours now swirling the City link Andersen with Wilde Sapt, the City law firm with strong connections to NatWest Bank. Such a deal would take Andersen into a different league in the legal business. Alas, all Andersen will tell me is that rumours are "wild speculation". Pass the darned needle, mother, my sides have split.

his "comments and opinion". Mr Zafer has made his comments to Mr Neil — with phrases like "a slap in the face" and "I am certainly not delighted to see it back on the street". Bert Hardie, *Sunday Business* managing director, is terribly sympathetic to Mr Zafer's cause, but says: "All we did was buy the title not the company. We paid £170,000 making us the largest contributors to the creditors' cause, but this is an issue for the liquidators of the old company." The mailing list containing Mr Zafer's address came from a reputable credit broker, apparently.



"All the traffic's missing"

**Stakeholder**

HOWARD DAVIES always had the credentials for a potential new Labour luvvie. He prefers to leap onto a bicycle rather than board a chauffeur-driven Jag and is a confessed keen football fan — although he chooses to back struggling Manchester City. But evidence of his politically correct tendencies is mounting. He has done away with company cars at the Financial Services Authority, pre-

ferring to give staff a £3,000-a-year contribution to their own cars. And now, in the latest FSA report, the former Bank of England and CBI man says: "We look forward to a continuing dialogue with all our stakeholders in the coming year."

So tell me, Mr Davies, in the context of a financial regulator, what exactly is a stakeholder?


**Party watcher**

NOWHERE was the relaunch of *Sunday Business* — the much troubled financial newspaper — more keenly awaited than at the home of Alan Zafer, the events organiser whose firm Alan Zafer & Co is famed for organising, among other things, the launch parties for Channel 5, the HMV store in Oxford Street and — nearly two years ago — the first incarnation of *Sunday Business*.

Unfortunately, Tom Rubythorn, the original editor of the paper, failed to pay Mr Zafer for the party, leaving him £26,000 out of pocket. So imagine his surprise when not only he but also his accountant, Kathy Silk, received "personal" faxes from Andrew Neil, editor-in-chief of the new *Sunday Business*, telling them of the relaunch of the paper and asking for



Neil: comments invited



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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by sector (e.g., Equity, Bond, Income, Money Market, etc.) with columns for Name, Bid, Offer, and % Change.

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Equities close below best

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Table listing various alcoholic beverage stocks with columns for company name, price, and change.

BANKS

Table listing various bank stocks with columns for company name, price, and change.

BREWERIES PUBS & REST

Table listing various brewery, pub, and restaurant stocks with columns for company name, price, and change.

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Table listing various diversified industrial stocks with columns for company name, price, and change.

BUILDING MATERIALS

Table listing various building materials stocks with columns for company name, price, and change.

ELECTRICITY

Table listing various electricity stocks with columns for company name, price, and change.

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

Table listing various electronic and electrical stocks with columns for company name, price, and change.

CHEMICALS

Table listing various chemical stocks with columns for company name, price, and change.

HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT

Table listing various household goods and textile stocks with columns for company name, price, and change.

ENGINEERING

Table listing various engineering stocks with columns for company name, price, and change.

CONSTRUCTION

Table listing various construction stocks with columns for company name, price, and change.

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CONSTRUCTION

Table listing various construction stocks with columns for company name, price, and change.

DISTRIBUTORS

Table listing various distributor stocks with columns for company name, price, and change.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing various investment trusts with columns for company name, price, and change.

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

Table listing various engineering and vehicle stocks with columns for company name, price, and change.

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Table listing various food manufacturer stocks with columns for company name, price, and change.

HEALTHCARE

Table listing various healthcare stocks with columns for company name, price, and change.

LEISURE & HOTELS

Table listing various leisure and hotel stocks with columns for company name, price, and change.

INSURANCE

Table listing various insurance stocks with columns for company name, price, and change.

MINING

Table listing various mining stocks with columns for company name, price, and change.

OIL & GAS

Table listing various oil and gas stocks with columns for company name, price, and change.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table listing various British funds with columns for fund name, price, and change.

SHORTS (under 5 years)

Table listing various short-term investments with columns for instrument name, price, and change.

LONGS (over 15 years)

Table listing various long-term investments with columns for instrument name, price, and change.

UNDATED

Table listing various undated investments with columns for instrument name, price, and change.

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

Table listing various medium-term investments with columns for instrument name, price, and change.

INDEX-LINKED

Table listing various index-linked investments with columns for instrument name, price, and change.

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# Rodney Hobson assesses the Making the Difference award finalists

## Go-getters in line for top prize

All ten finalists have been picked for the Making the Difference national awards. The companies, two from each region of England, have already won £5,000 and the national winner, to be chosen on March 10, will receive £10,000.

One regional winner, Seco Aluminium, a manufacturing company in Witham, Essex, faced imminent closure two years ago. Business Link Essex has helped it to improve productivity and efficiency, find new suppliers and markets and install a new delivery system and computer system.

David Beale, managing director, saved Seco from closure when he bought the high-quality aluminium extrusions manufacturer in May 1996. Since then £1 million has been invested to create the most up-to-date plant of its kind in Europe. Investment included installing a robot-driven material handling system without disrupting supplies, which has cut delivery times by 30 per cent.

Expansion has created 16 jobs and put £1 million of subcontract work into the Essex economy.

Mr Beale says: "No individual running a business can have all the answers. I needed a sounding board for my ideas and help with many areas of the business."

The Making the Difference awards are sponsored by Shell and the Department of Trade and Industry. Business Links nominates firms that can demonstrate the contribution Business Links has made to their development.

Regional winners are:

South East - Wild Oats Wholesale of London which turned to Business Link Central



David Beale, of Seco Aluminium, introduced robot system

when a former manager set up a rival healthfood supermarket nearby and took several key Wild Oats staff. A business review increased customer satisfaction and staff morale.

Garfield Robbins, a City-based legal recruitment agency, has plans to nearly triple turnover to more than £3 million by 2000. Business Link London City Partners helped to develop an infrastructure that led to opening an office in Australia and profitability.

North East - Diplomat Profiles turned to Business Link Tyneside for help to develop an export strategy and expanding production facilities. It has moved into a new 70,000 sq ft factory giving a sixfold rise in manufacturing capacity.

Carlensoft of Halifax was helped by Business Link Calderdale and

Kirklees in drawing up a business plan and training schedule resulting in five new jobs and a 27 per cent increase in sales.

North West - Lincoln Software of Macclesfield, Cheshire, which produces software development tools for leading companies including British Aerospace, approached Business Link Macclesfield for help in developing a marketing strategy.

Imperial Towel Rails of Cannock was formed in 1991 and sales have reached £2.5 million. With annual sales growth of 40 per cent, the company asked Business Link Staffordshire for advice and new premises were bought as a result.

Eastern - Mondo Foods of Winslow, Buckinghamshire, doubled turnover and profits after Business Link Milton Keynes and North Buckinghamshire identified



Steve Vale, general manager, saw Mondo Foods' profits double

weaknesses in the business and suggested improvements.

Western - Wire Fittings based at Swanage, wanting to improve productivity and double sales over five years, adopted Business Link Dorset's idea of a team-based system. The Cottage-in-the-Wood Hotel at Malvern Wells asked Business Link Hereford and Worcester to help it to build a reputation for high standards of

service. Developing a closer partnership with staff has won the hotel the AA Care and Courtesy Award. Runners-up each receiving £1,000 were Plowman Craven & Associates of Harpenden (Eastern Region), Sellite Blocks of Great Heck, North Yorkshire (North East), Caprice Apparel of Blackburn (North West), Custom Quality by Design (South East) and BES Electronics (Western).

## Come to breakfast and learn how to borrow £250,000

BY SALLY WATTS

BUSINESS LINKS is setting up new ways of funding small businesses after finding that firms are being held back by a lack of cash. In the latest Business Link initiative of its kind, Northamptonshire is to start a quarterly investment forum and business breakfast, bringing together investors and companies needing to raise up to £250,000.

The move is in partnership with Milton Keynes and North Buckinghamshire Business Link.

Business Links has found that while owner-managers need to look beyond banks for funding they also need to improve their business skills. Bank loans are the favourite source of external finance, but up to half the applications fail, usually through lack of security, failure to present the case well or a shortage of management skills.

Many firms had a debt to equity ratio of at least two to one - banks generally refuse a ratio above one to one. Even more firms did not know their debt-equity ratio.

Now Business Links is setting up new ways of funding, at different levels and with various partners. Northamptonshire, for example, is drawing on private and public support. Sources include the Open University, Grant Thornton, the business adviser, other corporate members and professionals, and 31, the venture capital provider.

Kent is one of eight Business Links pursuing a Mutual Guarantee Society (MGS) scheme, in which firms pool savings in a common fund as security against

loans, lending will be about two percentage points below normal loan rates.

Facilities are provided by the Co-operative Bank, which is setting up a loan fund of £5 million over three years, and Unity Trust Bank. Within five years, MGSs expect to be lending £240 million.

Societies, which have been welcomed by Barbara Roche, Small Firms Minister, are being developed - one at a planned rate of seven new ones a year - by the National Association of Mutual Guarantee Societies with local partners, such as Business Links.

An early scheme, involving Business Link Tameside, Greater Manchester, has 21 businesses. For a £25 membership fee, each has a share, a vote and instant access to its money while the fund grows. Borrowing should start in 1999.

Martin Benson, project manager, concedes there is a risk element, though this is reduced by vetting and a borrowing limit.

Capital Match has 54 investors with £12 million to spend. This business angel scheme is jointly operated by Business Links Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Surrey and Sussex. Companies pay £20 to enrol; a business profile is prepared and they learn how to pitch for loans.

Capital Match achieves a deal a month. One was put together in 17 days: it saved the business John Foundling, Hampshire financial packages manager, says: "We are enabling firms to underpin future growth."

### BRIEFINGS

The Century Club has reached 40. Stoy Centre for Family Business has received faxes, letters and e-mails detailing family businesses still going strong after more than 100 years. Stoy's plans to set up a club of long-lasting family run businesses as outlined in Your Own Business two weeks ago. Responses have included Louis Epstein in Carmel, New York, answering the poser of whether a family business had ever completed 100 years within two generations. Sir John Denholm, son of the founder of J and J Denholm, retired as chairman of the Glasgow shipping company in its

centenary year of 1906. Sir Ian Denholm, the current chairman and grandson of the founder, will retire this year at the age of 70, making just three heads of the business in 132 years. Sir Ian's son, another John Denholm, will then take the helm. Stoy hopes that by getting long-lasting family businesses together it will learn the secrets of survival to help business start-ups.

Royal Bank of Scotland, has introduced a revolving credit facility to finance insurance premiums, including professional indemnity.

A Lloyds Bank account has been introduced for start-ups giving discounted rates during the first three years, when businesses are at their most vulnerable, and a package of free extras, including book-keeping and planning software, telephone banking and a debit card. The first year's banking

is free, the second at a 50 per cent discount, and the third at a 25 per cent discount.

Growing high-tech businesses are being brought together with investors at forums run by the Federation of the Electronics Industry. The next meeting is planned for Cambridge in March and other possible venues include Manchester and Edinburgh. Sponsors include Ernst & Young, the accountants, and Nabarro

Nathanson, the solicitors. For further information, call 0171-331 2002.

Marilyn Orchardson, chairman of the Small Business Bureau, the business lobbying group, and managing director of a management consultancy, has become the first female president of the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce in its 215-year history.

A pocket-sized guide to selling a

business, covering timing, valuation, negotiating a price and other aspects of the process, has been produced by Baker Tilly, the accountancy and consultancy firm. Inquiries: 0171-413 5389.

Details of more than 300 franchises are given on a computer disk called Franchise Explorer just produced by Enterprise Advisory Service, the business data consultancy. Other information listed includes sources of finance and legal advice, and details of franchise consultants, exhibitions and publications. Price: £35.25, including VAT. Inquiries: 01730 269 3000.

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Power to search mental detainees Accepting liability not 'admission'

Regina v Broadmoor Special Hospital Authority and Another, Ex parte S and Others

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Auld and Lord Justice Judge

[Judgment February 5] Hospitals detaining patients under the Mental Health Act 1983 had a general power to search patients...

only when there had been reason to do so. The introduction of the policy of random and routine searches was prompted by a patient who had secreted a heavy drinking mug used for snacking a hospital priest.

entered the hospital's discretion in its exercise because it allowed of no exception on medical grounds.

dangerous, violent or criminal propensities" to be driven to the conclusion that the power conferred by the hospital was essential to enable it to fulfil its prime function of treatment of its patients.

Limb v Union Jack Removals Ltd and Another, McGivern v Browns Partington v Turners Bakery Pyne-Edwards v Moore Large and Co Ltd Smith v Brothers of Charity Services Ltd

assigned to it by rule 2(2), since there were other rules which permitted a judge to direct that judgment be entered when no admission had been served, and the rule makers were concerned to limit the striking out provisions to those cases in which, although the defendant had made no response of any kind in the action, the plaintiff had likewise taken no steps to enter judgment.

an admission defence or counterclaim, there could be no question of the action being struck out under Order 9, rule 10(1).

claim he was disposed to admit, but no doubt he could get that message across under section 3b "What are your reasons for disputing the claim?"

The Court of Appeal so held in received judgments dismissing an appeal by three patients detained at Broadmoor Special Hospital from the refusal by Mr Justice Potts (The Times November 5, 1997) of their applications for judgment by the hospital authority in July 1997 to conduct searches.

The Mental Health Act 1983 contained no express power for searching patients. But section 118 provided for the secretary of state to prepare and revise from time to time a code of practice in relation to the treatment of patients.

It was clear that the judge had kept well in mind the linkage between detention and treatment and had rightly concluded that the interests of both necessitated the imposition of such a power.

Lord Justice Judge gave a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Nourse agreed.

Order 9, rule 10 provides: "Where 12 months have expired from the date of service of a default summons and (i) no admission, defence or counterclaim has been delivered and judgment has not been entered against the defendant, or (ii) an admission has been delivered but no judgment has been entered under rule 6(1) or, as the circumstances of the case may require, no notice of acceptance has been received by the proper officer, the action shall be struck out and no enlargement of the period of 12 months shall be granted under Order 13, rule 4."

There was a new point which had to be decided on the meaning and effect of the rule.

In one of the appeals the judge had directed that an action be struck out as against both defendants although one of them had in fact delivered a defence. It was conceded that that order was wrong but it was argued that the court nevertheless had power to declare that the action had been struck out against one of the defendants.

Since the "admission" was not on Form N9, they would have had to apply for summary judgment for damages to be assessed under Order 9, rule 14.

Ministerial debate no aid in knife case

Regina v Deegan

Before Lord Justice Waller, Mr Justice Owen and Mr Justice Sullivan

[Judgment February 4] It was not legitimate to take into account statements made by ministers in the course of debate on the Bill which ultimately became the Criminal Justice Act 1988 in order to interpret the meaning of "locking pocketknife" in section 139 of that Act, the statements being unclear.

LORD JUSTICE WALLER, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appellant had been found by police officers in possession of a folding pocket knife which was capable of being locked into an open position.

Although in one sense the statements made during the debates were clear, in that it was undoubtedly thought that not just pocket knives that fitted the Divisional Court's interpretation of "locking", but some which locked when the blades were open were being excluded, in the sense required by Pepper v Hart they were not clear.

The word "locking" was itself an ambiguous phrase. To say that the court should attempt to define that phrase would be asking it to go beyond its proper function. It would no longer be interpreting the intention of Parliament, it would be writing the legislation it thought was reasonable.

Mr Andrew Grantham for Marie Partington; Mr Norman Wright for Turners Bakery. Mr Richard Payne for Daniel Pyne-Edwards; Mr Norman Wright for Moore Large and Co Ltd.

When 12 months have expired from the date of service of a default summons and (i) no admission, defence or counterclaim has been delivered and judgment has not been entered against the defendant, or (ii) an admission has been delivered but no judgment has been entered under rule 6(1) or, as the circumstances of the case may require, no notice of acceptance has been received by the proper officer, the action shall be struck out and no enlargement of the period of 12 months shall be granted under Order 13, rule 4."

Effect must be given to the clear meaning of the rule, and if one of several defendants had delivered

punishment than detention. However, one year's imprisonment attracted remission after six months whereas detention did not attract remission until after eight months.

It was not therefore permissible to construe that phrase differently from the way in which it had been construed by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court in Harrison v DPP [1993] 1 WLR 82.

Having examined the material from Hansard de bene esse it seemed apparent to the Lordships from the debating of the amendments being considered between November 1987 and July 1988 that:

1. At one stage it was intended that the sections should be made expressly to apply to a pocket knife whose blade, however long, when opened, locked automatically or could be locked manually;

2. There was thus a decision not to make it so expressly apply and it was contemplated that the word "locking" would exclude from the section "locking pocketknives";

3. Finally that the word "locking" was introduced in order to ensure that someone became in effect a fixed blade knife and fell outside the exemption.

MR JUSTICE JOHNSON, giving the judgment of the court, said that by section 113 of the Army Act 1955, as amended by paragraph 4 of Schedule 5 to the Armed Forces Act 1996, the decision of the court martial was reviewed and the term of one year's detention was substituted for the original sentence of one year's imprisonment.

Section 71 of the Army Act 1955 listed the punishments available to a court martial and made it clear that imprisonment was to be regarded as a more serious

His Lordship considered the differences between imprisonment and detention and concluded that however benign a term of detention was the essential element was a loss of liberty which was potentially greater under a term of detention.

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# Lashings of marine passion

When the whole state of opera seems so gloom-ridden, with the Government seeking to reduce activity in the capital and the Royal Opera facing the gravest crisis in its 50-year history, a performance as superb as the Welsh National's new *Billy Budd* sheds a ray of hope. It is not so much that Neil Armfield's production is mould-breaking — though it is good — more the overall standard of the orchestral playing and choral singing, by which the artistic temperature of any company must be taken, and the rapt attention of the audience at the first night. Opera is certainly alive and well in Cardiff.

OPERA  
**Billy Budd**  
Cardiff

The chief architect of this triumph is the young American conductor Andrew Litton, who has taken advantage of WNO's generous rehearsal facilities to take a fresh look at the score without any hint of self-consciousness, simply by drawing out of it what was there all along. If there is a tradition of gentlemanly restraint, of holding back when conducting Britten — and in a work largely about lack of engagement this might be understandable — Litton will have none of it. His taut reading often makes the piece sound like Shostakovich in one of his angrier moods, and the climaxes, every one of them properly earned, have positively a Wagnerian aural impact.

The horror of life on board ship, the pain of the central relationships, are conveyed through exceptional playing. The attack of the strings, not just the warm, fat one they bring to those arching, aching phrases: the physical and emotional violence of the brass; the pungency of the woodwind sound — all are built into a sound picture of terrifying power. *Budd* is never going to sound the same again. Two snapshots: the fizzy, crisply defined string articulation at the work's crux when Vere prepares for his wordless interview with Budd, which took the breath away; and

Litton's light, dancing way with the "Jeremy Legs" duet, the potentially weak ending of Act I. Armfield's direction is simple and well organised on Brian Thomson's rectangular platform, which tilts and swivels to suggest changes of location. Stage hands having to enter with trucks to get people on and off it during Britten's interludes constitute the only marginally distracting downturn. Blocking and helpful lighting (Nigel Levings) suggest near alter-ego identification of Vere and Claggart, after the manner of Wagner's "light" and "dark" Wotan: very interesting.

Less interesting are occasional outbreaks of homo-kitsch, like Budd's "fancy neckerchief" being passed between the two of them like a fetish. And flogging sailors in the nude was a refinement that not even the Royal Navy dreamt up. Rum, sodomy and the lash, yes; but not necessarily simultaneously. But Armfield draws marvellous performances from a uniformly excellent cast. The Canadian bass Philip Ens makes a young, well-set-up Claggart — no puny noses or melodramatic sneers — who finds the character's potential tragedy and sings with warm tone and ideal legato. Nigel Robson has done nothing better than his bookish, introverted, crisply projected Vere, and young Christopher Maltman brings a Lieder singer's sensitivity to Budd's music, if as yet not quite enough dramatic profile to his character.

Grant Dickson (Dansker), Ivan Sharpe (Novice) and Simon Thorpe (Donald, a nippy dancer) are outstandingly good, and the WNO chorus is beyond praise. A shattering evening.

RODNEY MILNES



Prepare to attack: Nigel Robson (Captain Vere, top centre) and Christopher Maltman (Billy Budd, bottom centre) lead the cast in Welsh National Opera's fine staging

Benjamin Britten's gentle comedy of East Suffolk manners could almost have been fashioned for student performance. Only a small orchestra of a dozen players is required and the piece is awash with character roles to give everyone a chance to act as well as sing. With a double cast drawn from both the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music the production at the intimate Britten Theatre (where else?) capitalises on all this. After a sticky start it provides an evening of well-observed good humour.

That slow beginning can be laid partly at the feet of Eric Crozier's

## Turn-up among the turnips

libretto, traditionally much praised but not faultless. The characters who meet at Lady Billows's manor to choose the May Queen are lifted from one of Ben Travers's less imaginative farces: naive schoolmistress, comic copper, nosy housekeeper... It is only at the Herrings' greengrocery, a bit short of produce in Bernard Cusshaw's set, that originality takes over in the shape of Albert, tied to his mother's apron strings and apparently condemned to a life of heaving sacks of turnips.

Albert Herring  
Royal College of Music

Ian Yemm in the original Peter Pears role is careful not to overplay Albert's goofiness. Donizetti's *Elisir* and Britten's *Herring* have much in common and Albert is a Nemorino looking not for the elixir of love but the potion of independence, which arrives in the spiked drink he downs when crowned

May King. Yemm is excellent at suggesting the worm about to turn, ever yearning for the fun world beyond boxes of apples and sprouts. His tenor is neat and clean, he is a natural self-deprecating comic and his diction is immaculate — would that the same could be said of some of the women in the cast.

Leigh Melrose, a sturdy baritone of presence, and Elba Wallin, who grew with the evening, are the lovers Sid and Nancy, objects of

Albert's jealousy. Rebecca Nash appeared heavily padded as Lady Billows, but her substantial soprano needs no ballast. Blye Wolfe as the vicar is already a classy buffo who could take to the professional stage tomorrow.

Mike Ashman directs his student cast with considerable sympathy and has outstanding support from the RCM's orchestra under Michael Rosewell. Special praise for the flute and clarinet in the crucial Act II nocturne where Albert decides that the best use for prize money is a little dissipation.

JOHN HIGGINS

CONCERTS: Holst to the aid of the Hallé in Manchester, Pollini at the piano in London, and an indestructible tenor

## Celestial gems

Kent Nagano and the Hallé must be happy to have Holst's *The Planets* so firmly in their joint repertoire. It's the kind of work — popular but not trivial — that they are going to need in the times ahead. It did not fill the Bridgewater Hall for this particular concert: an ill-conceived celebration of lives. Messiaen and Holst presented in association with the BBC's *Soundings* the *Century* festival. But in the Hallé's sub-

Hallé/Nagano  
Manchester

scription season, with either the *Ives* or the *Messiaen*, it might well have done. So those in the audience with a taste for modern music had better take advantage of what opportunities they are offered before the retrenchment begins. They might lose out in the aesthetic sense with

items that fail to confirm the reputation of their composers, like the *Ives* piece for brass and bells, *From the Steeples and the Mountains*, in this programme, but at least they will have the evidence to form their own opinions. *Poèmes pour Mi*, on the other hand, is an abundantly rewarding work. Although the words, by Messiaen himself, are a characteristic mixture of sex and Roman Catholicism, the music is by a composer young enough to have developed in quite a different direction. Six years later the fascination is in noting those harmonies and melodic inflections which were to become a permanent part of the vocabulary. It is even more interesting to identify the more conventional characteristics one might have thought totally alien to Messiaen at any age. Beautifully sung — though not impeccably pronounced — by Patricia Schuman and poetically coloured by the orchestra, it was a voluptuous and even slightly embarrassing experience.

There is nothing like that in *The Planets*, of course. A conductor not born to the idiom can look for secret recesses, as Kent Nagano seemed to be doing, but however slowly he takes a movement like *Venus* he will reveal nothing but clean lines and chaste textures. He was actually more successful with the magical symbolism of *Uranus*, which acquired more sinister qualities than it usually does. So did *Neptune*, but this was a result of the off-stage ladies of the Hallé Choir being as out of touch with the pitch of the orchestra as they were out of sight of it.

GERALD LARNER

## Master of everything he essays

Most tenors would think twice before including Tonio's *Act I* aria from Donizetti's *La Fille du régiment* in a concert programme. With its string of high Cs forming a veritable mountain range it is one of the most demanding pieces in the *bel canto* repertoire. Only Alfredo Kraus would choose to open with it. As those top notes cut through the Barbican it was quite clear that all the old skills were intact, present and formidable. Kraus has only been heard publicly in London once in the past five years, but the voice remains totally undimmed. Kraus's career, spanning four decades, has been found-

ed on a mixture of boldness and caution. He has always been fearless in his vocal attack, specialising in those high-flying roles that give some of his rivals vertigo. He has also been consistently ruthless about just what and how much he sings. Wednesday's appearance with the Royal Opera Orchestra summed up the Kraus approach. After Tonio had gone off to be a soldier in huge applause only two other arias followed during the first half. There was Lionel's *Mappari* from *Martha*, which Kraus made swell and open like a bud suddenly bursting into flower, and a zarzuela number designed to show off his declamatory powers and give

## Sure-fingered Chopin

After last year's Beethoven marathon, Maurizio Pollini returned, refreshed it seemed, to a Festival Hall every bit as eager to hear his Chopin and Debussy. Not a seat was empty. Chairs crept out on to the platform, all but invading the piano's space, and the foyners at interval time were impassable.

Maurizio Pollini  
Festival Hall

Chopin, after all, is where Pollini began, winning Warsaw's epynymous competition when he was 18; it is where he took up again after a fallow period; and it is to Chopin that he returns in his maturity. A lifetime of the composer's presence in his musical subconscious has enabled Pollini to play simultaneously for himself and for his audience. The Prelude in C sharp minor Op 45 drifted into being as if gradually overheard and, as the bright platinum light of the right hand's figuration met the underflow of the left, the music flowed in a rapturous confluence at every successive cadence point.

Two Ballades — No 1 in G minor and No 4 in F minor — were for once exactly what their name implied: compelling, elevated tale-telling, inspired by the fiery and muscular Romanticism of the Polish poet Mickiewicz. It was the fierceness of their passion, and the clashing of disparate elements rather than their resolution, that Pollini emphasised. Exploration of the tones and tints of the piano's palette



Pollini: exploring the tones and tints of the piano's palette

was strictly subordinate to the virtuoso definition of rhythm and form.

Those who look in Chopin for a greater sense of inner silence and intimate song may have been equally disappointed by Pollini's Debussy. The descriptive titles of Debussy's *Preludes* were deliberately placed by the composer at the end of each piece. Pollini, too, seemed eager to recreate the *Preludes* of Book One as essentially abstract works, perfectly structured balancing acts of rhythmic shape and harmonic colour.

There were some masterpieces of pianism: the control

of the surging velocity and coiled figuration in *Ce qu'a vu le vent d'ouest*; the balancing of weight and measure, resonance and space in *La Cathédrale Engloutie*. But the imagination that can make the chords of *Danses de Delphes* levitate from their classical frieze, and the suppleness of rhythm that can people *Les Collines d'Anacapri* and *Minstrels* with a passing show of elusive creatures of flesh and blood, was evoked only reluctantly in what sometimes seemed rather businesslike performances.

HILARY FINCH

## BUILDING A LIBRARY

A guide to the best available recordings in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

MONTEVERDI'S II  
COMBATTIMENTO DI  
TANCREDI E CLORINDA  
Reviewed by Bruce Wood

*Il Combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda* (1624) is one of Monteverdi's boldest experimental works. Scored for just three singers and six instrumentalists, it employs a new musical language — the *stile concertato*, or tumultuous style — to convey the noise and emotions of battle. It tells of the single combat between the Crusader knight Tancredi and the Saracen warrior-princess Clorinda, whom he has encountered dressed in full armour and hence mistaken for a man. Mortally wounded at last, she asks for holy baptism. Belatedly recognising her, he is grief-stricken — but she dies happy, seeing heaven open to receive her.

Nine recordings of this important work are available. The earliest, recorded in 1961 on Accord by soloists with the Lugano Chamber Orchestra under Edwin Loehrer, lacks tension, and the performing style is very old-fashioned. A 1976 version under René Clemencic, now on the Music of Abroad budget label, offers crisp singing but unacceptably ponderous instrumental playing. Nikolaus Harnoncourt, in his 1980 recording with Concertus Musicus for Das Alte Werk, seeks stylistic authenticity but sometimes drives the music uncomfortably hard.

Robert Gini and his *Concerto Ensemble* (Tactus, 1987) have an epic seriousness but often fail to bring the *drama* to life, and occasionally indulge in exaggerated contrasts. A 1991 Hyperion disc from Red Byrd and the Parley of Instru-

ments offers well-focused singing and playing but is dramatically bland. The most recent recording (Naxos, 1996), by Capella Musicale di San Petronio di Bologna under Sergio Vartolo, is marred by curiously languid tempo, though beautifully sung, it cannot be recommended even at budget price. A 1992 Harmonia Mundi recording by Les Arts Florissants under William Christie sets the pulse racing; very



Claudio Monteverdi

tempting as a super-budget single (HMS 926015) containing only the one work. The *Consort of Music*, on a 1990 Virgin Classics disc coupled with other music by Monteverdi (VC 7 59606-2), errs on the side of caution, but its exquisite stinging makes this an attractive runner-up. But Philip Pickett's New London Consort, recorded in 1993 on L'Oiseau-Lyre (446 637-2, £15.49), again generously filled, is the clear winner. Pickett's direction is exemplary in its tautness; Catherine Bott, Andrew King and John Mark Ainsley sing most eloquently; the string playing is thoroughly stylish; and David Robiou's harpsichord playing is a constant if unobtrusive delight. Recommended.

• To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SC0681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 495; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk. Next Saturday on Radio 3 (5pm): Debussy's Six Images for piano

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سكوذا من الأصل

Two artists on show in London share a fixation with death but handle it differently. Richard Cork reports

# Memorial for unknown millions

Walking through the first room of *Nightfall*, Christian Boltanski's powerful show at the Anthony d'Offay Gallery, is like visiting a stricken hospital ward for children. Nobody inhabits the small beds lining the white walls. Pillows, sheets and blankets are neatly arranged there, suggesting that they were recently occupied. Now, however, thick plastic sheets cover most of them, and one is sealed off beneath frosted glass. They all look contaminated. Strange handles project from some of their sides, giving them a portable air. Perhaps they are ready for removal, by medical authorities anxious to eradicate anything infected by the epidemic.

Boltanski, true to form, offers no answers to the host of questions aroused by his work. Over the past 20 years this single-minded French artist has established a formidable reputation as a restrained, yet melancholy, memorialist. We often have no idea who the faces are, staring out from the ranks of photographs in his twilight installations. But there is no mistaking the mournfulness, and the anonymity of these people makes its own point. For Boltanski sees the present century as an era of overwhelming human loss, and millions of those who died were buried in unmarked graves.

Hence the enigma of the beds in this, his first one-man London exhibition for more than five years. We are reduced to moving up and down the room searching for clues, like relatives vainly trying to locate a patient they have lost. Boltanski frustrates our efforts even further by shrouding most of the installation in gloom. Each bed is illuminated only by a single upright neon tube. The soft, fuzzy light it gives off adds to the aura of mystery.

No attempt has been made to hide the tangle of wires attached to the lights. Coiling across the floor in profusion, they make one of the beds resemble an incubator waiting to hatch. Swathed on all sides by plastic coverings, it is the most secretive and ominous structure on view. On the whole, though, suspicions of sinister scientific experimentation give way to thoughts of mortality. Two of the beds have high sides, and the linen is laid out deep inside them. They both look like sarcophagi, fit only for carrying corpses to the cemetery.

Although the second room contains a separate installation, it could easily be an extension of the first. Five free-standing hospital screens occupy the darkened space, forcing us to negotiate a tortuous path around them. Dimly illuminated from within, each one shows on both front and back a blurred photograph of a person unknown. Enlarged from newspapers or magazines, the grainy images are mainly of young women's faces, smiling from the shadows. But one closes her lids and another, more disquietingly, has a black band laid across both eyes.

They are all reminiscent of evidence used in police investigations, Boltanski, however, stops short of telling us whether



Victims or perpetrators? As in all his work, the French artist Christian Boltanski's installation *Les Portants* (*The Screens*, 1996) sets up questions but never offers any answers

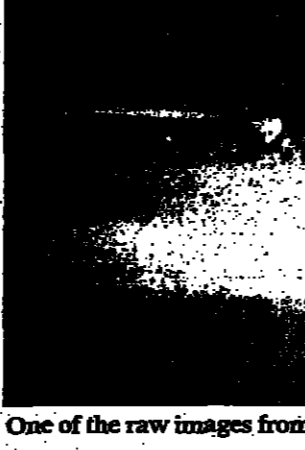
er they are victims or perpetrators. Ambiguity reigns. Darkness intensifies in the final room, where the brick walls are hung with more than 200 framed pictures of different sizes. This time, no faces tantalise us. The images are uniformly black, and they chime in colour with the material swathing the seven coffins that fill most of the space with their funereal bulk. The coffins vary considerably in length. But they are strangely narrow, as if the bodies inside were attenuated to the point of outright emaciation. Naked bulbs dangle from the ceiling on long wires, providing the only source of illumination. The atmosphere is hushed and rapt.

Moving among the coffins, I accidentally nudged one of the bulbs. It swung like a censer, casting macabre shadows and heightening the ecclesiastical atmosphere throughout the chamber. The spirituality of the installation helps to explain why it appears, in the end, serene rather than morbid. Boltanski invites viewers to project their own private bereavements onto the blankness confronting them.

No such licence is granted in the other d'Offay space further along Dering Street, where Johan Grimoprez's film *Dial H-I-S-T-O-R-Y* is being

screened several times a day. I first encountered this extraordinary work in a small, suffocating room at *Documenta X* last year, where it stood out as a headlong assault on the senses.

Now, in its British premiere, *Dial H-I-S-T-O-R-Y* still has a visceral impact. It starts in a



One of the raw images from Johan Grimoprez's hijacking film, *Dial H-I-S-T-O-R-Y*

deceptively lyrical way with a plane coming in to land from a cloudy sky. But Grimoprez, a young Belgian artist adept at mixing news footage, silent movies, cartoons, amateur video sequences and much else besides, cuts swiftly and brutally to horrifying shots of a jumbo jet erupting in flames

on the runway. The rest of the film spares us nothing in its relentless exploration of hijacking in the air.

The film is interwoven with readings from Don DeLillo's *White Noise* and *Mao II*. They lend it a wry, ruminative quality, set apart from the often harrowing scenes re-

corded by news cameramen. The lifeless body of an executed pilot is dropped like refuse onto the airport tarmac. Three captive jets, marooned in a distant heat-haze, are blown up with sickening efficiency, one after another.

Grimoprez never lets us forget the voracious presence of photographers, reporters and the rest of the international media scrum. They jostle dazed hostages emerging at last from a protracted ordeal, and keep cameras running on a howling mother as she hugs her desperately wounded son. The creepiness of airport interiors is chillingly conveyed. So are the games played by politicians, especially the leaders of revolutionary causes espoused by so many hijackers themselves. Lenin lays on a shameless display of car-stroking. Castro and Khrushchev fraternise on a snowbound shooting trip in the forest, and a colossal photograph of the avuncular Stalin floats above a Soviet parade.

After a while, everything becomes weirdly theatrical. Everyone seems embroiled in a murderous form of show-business. One bespectacled schoolboy released by guerrillas admits, grinning, that they were "real nice — I loved it, I had a good time". And a psychologist studying the ter-

rorist mentality analyses the erotic pleasure a young hijacker derives from prodding an air-hostess with his gun and shouting: "Honey, we're going all the way."

In the end, Grimoprez's film induces a feeling of nausea — partly caused by the incessant bloodshed, partly by the ruthless media clamour, and partly by the feeling that, as a voice on the soundtrack observes, "there's too much of everything — only the terrorist stands outside". Maybe *Dial H-I-S-T-O-R-Y* is itself guilty of overkill. But Grimoprez counters rawness with mordant humour, and provides an ideal contrast to the stillness of Boltanski's haunting elegies.

● Boltanski and Grimoprez at *Anthony d'Offay Gallery*, Dering Street, London W1 (0171-497 4100) until March 7

## Powerful southern medicine

On the cover of *Infamous Angel*, Iris DeMent's first big-label album in 1992, her fellow acoustic explorer John Prine commended her music to us with the words "it's good for you". Your mother might have said the same when it was time for your cod liver oil, but while DeMent visits some dark and disagreeable crevices of the human spirit, her performances on record and in concert always leave a pleasant taste.

Her continued low-key presence at such a heavy-hitting label as Warner Brothers is something of a throwback to the days when artists were allowed time and space for creative proliferation, and not thrown out on their ear if the

POP  
**Iris DeMent**  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

hits did not arrive by return. The reward has been an increasing profundity and courage in the writing of this unpretentious woman from Mississippi Delta working stock in Paragould, Arkansas.

One has always pictured the cypresses and tupelos in her evocative, unaccompanied tuneweaving, her acoustic guitar set against a voice with the fragrance of an Emmylou Harris but twice as plaintive. On Sunday evening it was soon clear that since her timorous London appearances early in the decade, consistent roadwork has also brought much greater self-assurance.

She appeared in cotton print dress and sensible shoes, the embodiment of a time long before rock'n'roll, even before modern country music. Bonny tunes from *Infamous Angel* such as *These Hills and Sweet Forgiveness* were called up like old friends, and DeMent also accompanied herself, on occasion, at the piano. Such was the setting for a pugnacious *I'll Take My Sorrow Straight* and the more melancholic *Walkin' Home*, in which she pinpoints the simplicity of childhood with a singular absence of sentimentality.

Both of those songs come from her most recent album, 1996's *The Way I Should*, and it was from that set that she went deeper still down the well of emotion for two compositions of stark power. *Letter To Mom* addressed child abuse with a shivery air of authenticity; *Wasteland of the Free* was an articulate if uncharacteristically mordant deprecation of the contemporary culture that breeds sixth graders who cannot read, but "can tell you the name of every crutch on MTV". It was almost like hearing Ma Walton use bad language.

PAUL SEXTON

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### AROUND THE LONDON GALLERIES

His paintings are therefore generally evocative of Indian art, ranging from the most refined Mughal miniatures to the unsophisticated picture-making of the marketplace. But at the same time he has established an imaginative world of his own. In his last show at Long and Ryle he seemed to be moving closer to abstraction. But in the present one he goes in a new direction: the imagery is more and more Surrealistic, with dreams and reality freely intermingling.

■ **THIS WEEK** the Belgrave Gallery is going in an unexpected direction, rather than one of its regular artists doing so. Normally one expects to see "Modern British" displayed there, but at present it is introducing to Britain a Madrid artist called Amelia Moreno. She is already well known at home and in New York, where she has also worked, and exhibited. As it happens, this first London show does usher in a new phase in her work: she is concentrating on painting, and within that discipline working in a curious, personal convention which is at once abstract and minutely representational. The paintings, in very muted tones of pink and grey, are "about" geometrical

shapes, but these are depicted in the round, with meticulous attention to rendering the precise way light falls over a curved surface. The result is very beautiful and restful.

**Belgrave Gallery**, 53 Englands Lane, NW3 (0171-722 5150), until Feb 27

■ **DOWNSTAIRS** at the Belgrave there is a selection of the gallery's more usual

wares, including a very strange painting of a bearded man in a park with an animal (a large black cat, maybe?) so distorted by angle of vision as to defy exact identification. The surprise is that this is an early work (1962) by Anthony Green, best known in his later guise of an obsessive autobiographer in paint. His show, *The Return of the Native*, at Highgate Fine Art pursues this line: it is a return because he spent most of his youth in Highgate. The paint-

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A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marti Hargre

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LONDON GALLERIES: Barbican... production...

NEWCASTLE: A welcome... production...

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NEWCASTLE: A welcome... production...



Loretta (Matilda Ziegler) watches as her two suitors, Michael (Con O'Neill) and Dave (Neil Stuke), get to grips in George F. Walker's play

My fair to middling lady

This is the third in the series of plays that Hamstead is calling 'New Directions' and the best to date. But I cannot say that the signposts are yet pointing along any path that justifies the season's grandiose title...

Surrealism made clear

It is a piece from which there persistently rises the voice of a right-thinking, non-sexist dramatist who believes that it is outrageous for anyone, male or female, to try to push around a modern woman...

The tears that bind

Father and son strife is something of a staple in Irish drama — and Tom Murphy's The Grief Concert much use of an operatic soundtrack — but Nolan seems content to work within such familiar forms...

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London. Includes listings for 'A DELICATE BALANCE', 'EVERYMAN', 'LORRETTA', 'A LETTER OF RESIGNATION', 'THE GOLFERS', 'NEWCASTLE', 'LONDON GALLERIES', 'NEWCASTLE', 'LONDON GALLERIES', 'NEWCASTLE'.

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NEW RELEASES

THE BLACKOUT (19). Hollywood star goes on the deep end with dark and... Includes listings for 'THE BLACKOUT', 'DOWNTIME', 'FAIRYTALE: A TRUE STORY', 'GOOD BURGER', 'IN & OUT'.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and elsewhere. Includes listings for 'THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE', 'THE COMPANY OF MEN', 'THE WINGS OF THE DOVE', 'THE WOMAN IN BLACK', 'THE INSPECTOR CALLS', 'THE WOMAN IN BLACK', 'THE INSPECTOR CALLS'.

ART GALLERIES

SEBASTIAN CHEPKI THE EARLY WORKS. Includes listings for 'SEBASTIAN CHEPKI', 'ALSO MAJOR OILS BY SATEL', 'VEDERNIKOV AND BURAK', 'ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS', 'MADAM BUTTERFLY', 'COLISEUM', 'ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS', 'MADAM BUTTERFLY', 'COLISEUM'.

THEATRES

ADRIELPHI. Includes listings for 'ADRIELPHI', 'ALDWYCH', 'APOLLO VICTORIA', 'DONMAR WAREHOUSE', 'THE FRONT PAGE', 'DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL', 'MESS SAIGON', '9TH BREATHTAKING YEARS', 'DUCHESSE BO', 'MAGGIE', 'JOHN STANDING', 'A DELICATE BALANCE', 'HAYMARKET BO', 'EDNA THE SPECTACLE', 'HER MAJESTY'S', 'LYRIC', 'LYRIC', 'PRINCE EDWARD', 'PRINCE EDWARD', 'PRINCE EDWARD', 'PRINCE EDWARD'.

THE RIGHT SIZE. A large advertisement for 'The Right Size' clothing store, featuring a woman in a dress and the text 'THE RIGHT SIZE' and 'MUST END SAT'.

LAST TWO WEEKS. A large advertisement for 'Last Two Weeks' featuring 'A Musical Masterpiece' and 'MARTIN QUERRE'.

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LAW

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● NORTHWEST FOCUS 43

The questions of press freedom

Journalists are right to be concerned about Her Majesty's judiciary taking greater powers to decide what should be included in tomorrow's Times or Sun. Some of us retain the scars from the 1967 battle in which the majority of the law lords prevented newspapers publishing extracts from Spycatcher even though the book was available in the rest of the world. The interview given by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, to the New Statesman has provoked debate about the effect of the Human Rights Bill on press freedom. But the Lord Chancellor's critics have failed to understand that a strengthened Press Complaints Commission (the PCC) makes judicial interference less likely and would therefore increase press freedom.

To see it exercised to stop newspaper articles such as those concerning the love life of Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary. Lord Irvine's misjudgment about the acceptability of such articles (not shared by Mr Cook or the Cabinet) should not deflect attention away from the questions of principle.

The least significant aspect of the interview was the Lord Chancellor's surprising comment that if the PCC were to be given power to prevent publication, he would like

to see it exercised to stop newspaper articles such as those concerning the love life of Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary. Lord Irvine's misjudgment about the acceptability of such articles (not shared by Mr Cook or the Cabinet) should not deflect attention away from the questions of principle.

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Lord Wakeham's concerns are unjustified. For the PCC to be a "public authority" will simply require it to take account of the often conflicting demands of the right to freedom of expression and the right to privacy. But that is currently the task performed by the PCC. It would not be compelled to abandon its informal procedures, provided that complaints are (as at present) fairly considered.

Indeed, the suggestion that the PCC might be compelled to change its methods by being brought within the legal system ignores the current reality. The leading textbook on public law (De Smith, Woolf and Jowell's Judicial Review of Administrative Action) suggests that the PCC is already a public body subject to judicial review

COUNSEL



DAVID PANNICK QC

compensation to victims, rather than simply to give adjudications after publication has occurred. Much of the press has complained that to confer increased powers on the PCC would create unreasonable restrictions on press freedom. But debate should proceed from the current reality that judges are already developing the common law to protect privacy, in part because of the United Kingdom's obligations under the convention. As the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, explained in a recent speech, the common law proceeds carefully, "scoring its runs in singles; no boundaries, let alone sixes".

Enactment of the Human Rights Bill will assist press freedom because judges will have a duty to recognise the fundamental right to

freedom of expression. If the PCC were to have power, in exceptional cases, to award compensation, judges would be even more ready to leave complainants to that remedy. The press is right, however, to resist prior restraint by the PCC, since the convention makes such a remedy permissible only in extreme circumstances.

Disagreement with the Lord Chancellor's wish to prevent publication of stories about the conduct of Cabinet ministers should not cause the media to lose sight of the central issue. Someone is going to be deciding where privacy ends and freedom of expression begins. Friends of the press would prefer that task to be performed by the PCC, composed of people who understand the issues of principles and the realities of journalism than by judges who (with notable exceptions) do not.

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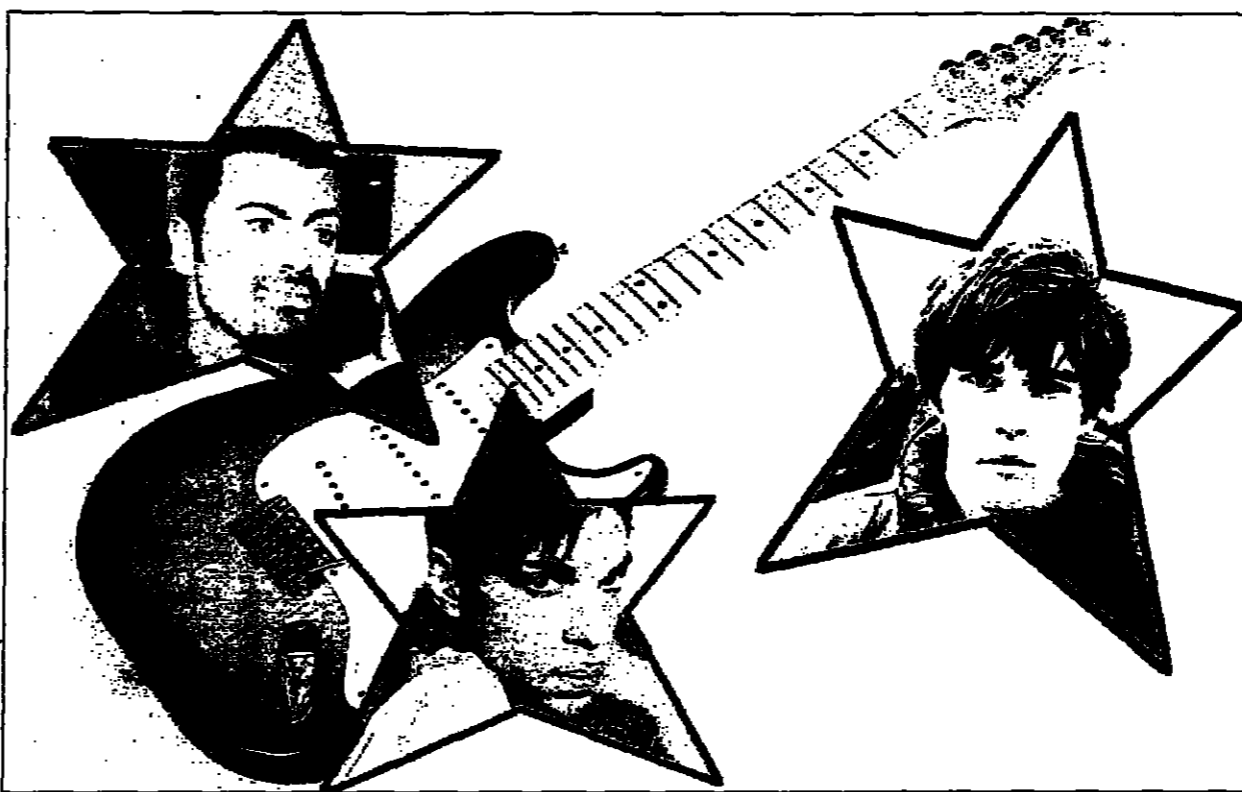
Adam Barker asks if there will ever be an end to the argument over who owns an artist's recordings

When royalties are held to ransom

Who should own an artist's recordings has long been squabbled about in the music industry. To date, several high-profile legal actions by well-known pop musicians, including George Michael, Prince, Frankie Goes to Hollywood and the Stone Roses, have made little impact on the way in which record companies treat their artists. But the recent announcement of a Government-backed task force to focus on its policy towards the recording industry may breathe fresh life into the issue.

show his disgust over his treatment by his label, Warner Bros. The legal wrangles were settled out of court, but trademark issues resulted in his new moniker of The Artist Formerly Known As Prince. The royalty system, where by an artist must pay for the recording costs of an album out of their advance, which is then deducted from their royalties, prompted Robert Fripp, the former Tangerine Dream guitarist, to remark: "Signing a record deal is like getting a mortgage, except that when you've paid it off the building society still owns your house." However, as Philip Loveday, a music lawyer with the music solicitors Statham Gill Davies, explains, this is not the whole story. "Yes, the music business is incredibly capitalistic. At the same time it is also very speculative. You must remember that it will cost a major label about £500,000 in marketing costs and advances to break a new act and even then there is no guarantee of success."

case (Georgios Panayiotou and Others v Sony Music Entertainment UK Ltd 1994) that signing an artist exclusively over a long period is the only way to protect their investment. In any event, as Simon Long, of the Simkins Partnership, points out: "Hot new acts will always have the choice of signing to a smaller independent label which will give them far more creative freedom and a shorter contract -- but of course less money. The major labels have deeper pockets, but they will want tougher terms to cover their higher financial exposure." Despite these justifications, many feel that the major labels have gone too far in the past. Until the 1980s, record companies still paid royalties to their artists on only 90 per cent of sales. This harked back to the days when many of the brittle 78rpm vinyls broke in transit. Seventy-eights vanished in the early 1950s, but the missing 10 per cent took decades to filter down to the royalty statements. Penny Nagle, of V2 Records (an independent label owned by Richard Branson), points out that the major labels are still not keen to pay their artists quickly. She says: "A typical major would account to



Rock stars who played the plaintiff: George Michael, Prince and Ian Brown of the Stone Roses

an artist some 18 months after the actual sale of the record: that is 18 months for the money to creep through several company bank accounts and to accrue interest before being paid out. Twenty years ago, most record contracts were very unfair to artists, especially with money. Things are much better now, and at V2 we account to artists within six months of sales."

Philip Loveday is sceptical about the intentions of independent labels, such as V2 and Independent, which claim to offer a new dawn for artists. "Yes, of course they offer a slightly fairer deal for artists, but that's only because they have to compete to attract good artists and have less money to spend than the majors. The

prospect of any real change in artist/label relationships is just pie in the sky. The real bottom line is that the industry is market-led and everything is down to negotiation and bargaining power." And perhaps this is entirely the point. All record contracts should be subject to a lawyer's advice for validity. Indeed, most labels will provide a special advance to cover legal advice for new signings for exactly this reason. So, assuming equally skilled lawyers,

the bargain struck between artist and label depends largely on simple bargaining power. A new act signing to Sony may not be able to call the shots, but when George Michael and his army of lawyers sit down to negotiate with the

same company, the playing field is more level. It seems, then, all the more absurd that George Michael attempted to void his Sony contract on the ground that the agreement was in restraint of trade. For Michael, the action went rapidly downhill when the judge lost sympathy for his case on discovering that he had received an extra £11 million in 1988 when the deal was renegotiated. While the music business continues to take an aggressively free-market approach, it seems that little will change. Simon Long says: "As long as major record companies remain the main source of financing for recording and marketing records, then the task force will have little impact on the sorts of deals offered to artists -- they are a function of the marketplace." And consider the utterly opposite agendas of the task force members: Hucknall claims to be an exploited artist, while McCee and his label Creation have enjoyed a 1,200 per cent rise in profits on the back of the last Oasis album (What's the Story?) Morning Glory. Finding any consensus on a course of action will prove difficult. The author, a barrister, is head of music affairs at Cooking Vinyl, an independent record company.

Brief encounters

WHO would have thought solicitors could be so romantic? In its Valentine's Day issue, the Law Society's Gazette gave its readers the chance to place anonymous messages to their lovers. They range from the sublime to the ridiculous. "Another year on and you're still lip-smacking, mouthwatering, earth-moving, mind-blowing, heart-poundingly gorgeous," writes one lovesick solicitor. Another more down-to-earth lover promises: "I will wear my shell suit and you can run my fingers through my soft curls." Then there are the love poems. "Tim, Tim, nice and slim, thin and bald and never dim, I'll never forget our night of sin on top of the Beacon with whipped cream and gin," chirps one message merrily.

No fear RUMOURS still abound as to whether the Lord Chancellor has his eye on chunks of the Home Office. Asked recently if he thought that a Ministry of Justice would be a good idea, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary -- after much ribald laughter -- delivered a firm put-down to the ambitions of

OUTS

any latter-day Cardinal Wolsey: "Matters of machinery of Government are exclusively the responsibility of the Prime Minister." Hard to swallow AN interesting mix of guests at a lunch party held by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, the other day: they



Family: the Mitchells

included the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, and Emma Thompson. The actress's memorable role in In the Name of the Father must have provided an interesting topic of conversation with his lordship: she played Gareth Peirce, the female lawyer for the Birmingham Six, who in the

Siblings on the bench

WITH the appointment of Angelica Mitchell to the bench, circuit judges have their first judicial brother and sister -- Angelica's brother is Judge Fergus Mitchell. Each is also married to a barrister. But the family connection does not end there: great-grandfather Edward Leigh-Pemberton was the president of the Law Society, their grandfather was a solicitor, mother Elizabeth was a barrister, JP and tribunal chairman, and father George was a QC.

STUART & FRANCIS

firm harangued the judge who sentenced the men. Gong show Smiles all round from most top law firms last Thursday at the Legal Business Awards ceremony at the Grosvenor Hotel. Almost every large firm won something. Linklaters had the commercial litigation team of the year (for defending the Co-Op from Galileo) and was top corporate finance team (for helping the Halifax become a plc). Clifford Chance was top banking team for restructuring Russian debt. Slaughter & May was top corporate team for helping GrandMet to clinch the Guinness merger. Norton Rose was top property team for work at Spitalfields, and Freshfields won the project finance and insurance awards. Cameron McKenna will be backed by gaining the energy award for the privatisation of California electricity. But the overall crown went to Allen & Overy for "laying down the measures necessary to continue its exceptional success". There were few winners outside the "magic circle", though. Do the top firms have it all sewn up? Tickets are still available for The Stoops to Conquer (February 17-21) in aid of the Bar Benevolent Association. 0171-404 8509.

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Handwritten text in Arabic script: صكنا من الاجل



John Hayes argues for self-regulation rather than control by statutory bodies

Keep the system simple

Austin Mitchell recently decried the lawyers' regulatory machinery under a headline "Can the Mafia regulate the Mafia?" This was in a year when Parliament...

Trade associations and professional bodies often insist that their members agree to join an ombudsman scheme. Members must agree to accept the outcome as well as to meet the cost...

These out-of-court procedures are usually quicker and cheaper to run because adjudication is normally based solely on written submissions. But all this could change in the financial services sphere...



Mitchell and Liddell: for statutory regulation. Below, Hamilton: could not cross-examine

Services Ombudsman, a statutory appointee, saw backlogs of work build up because he could not obtain the money he said he needed to do the job.

Conversely, lay people make a vital contribution to professional bodies, having a clearer and more informed view about what the rules themselves should say.



John Hayes, a solicitor, became Chairman of the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority in June 1996. He was secretary-general of the Law Society for nine years.

Sorry chronicle of wasted time

Stan and Hilary Wells may be about to enter the legal record books. They have just received a cheque for £25,000 in part-settlement of a claim they were forced to make after builders knocked down a wall adjoining their house more than ten years ago.

It took eight years to get the case to court, and a further two years and three months before they received any of their damages award. Now, after changing solicitors, some of it has come - but too late to make any difference.

The Wellses' nightmare (Law, Feb 18, 1997) began with a demolition crane bursting through their bedroom wall as they slept. The terraced property adjoining their house in

Frances Gibb tells how legal delays ruined a couple's life

South Norwood, London, was being pulled down - without notice. Their home was badly damaged and they were forced to take the garage owners who had pulled the wall down to court. Actions lodged by other parties caused a series of delays, and it was not until 1996 that their case was finally heard.

Now, more than ten years on, the house is in a bad state of neglect, with extensive damage from damp penetration. Meanwhile, the litigation and delays have taken their toll. Mr Wells was forced to give up his job as a recruitment manager because of coronary heart disease. The couple still have a

mortgage of £68,000 - likely to exceed the present value of the house - and they were forced to take out an overdraft and to cash in their endowment policy and pension to cover earlier costs. So the arrival of the damages cheque was something of an anticlimax. And, of course, it is not the end: they still await the final instalment to make up the total £31,000 award, including interest. They put a brave face on their problems "or we would go under", Mrs Wells says. But they now face a very uncertain retirement. "The money may pay off the overdraft we were forced to take out, but we will never now pay off the mortgage," Mr Wells says. They only survive through Mr Wells's mobility allowance and what Mrs Wells earns in her clerical job. "So our dream of paying off the mortgage, selling the house and retiring to the country has gone. "If your life is destroyed, how can it be called justice?"

Still time to nominate for awards

Nominations are invited for the Times/Justice Awards, open to individuals and organisations in two categories: civil justice and criminal justice. The judges, including the Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf, and Chris Mullin, the chairman of the Home Affairs Committee, will look for one or more of a commitment to human rights, finding of a key argument in a case, making justice fairer, pro bono work or helping people to obtain access to justice.

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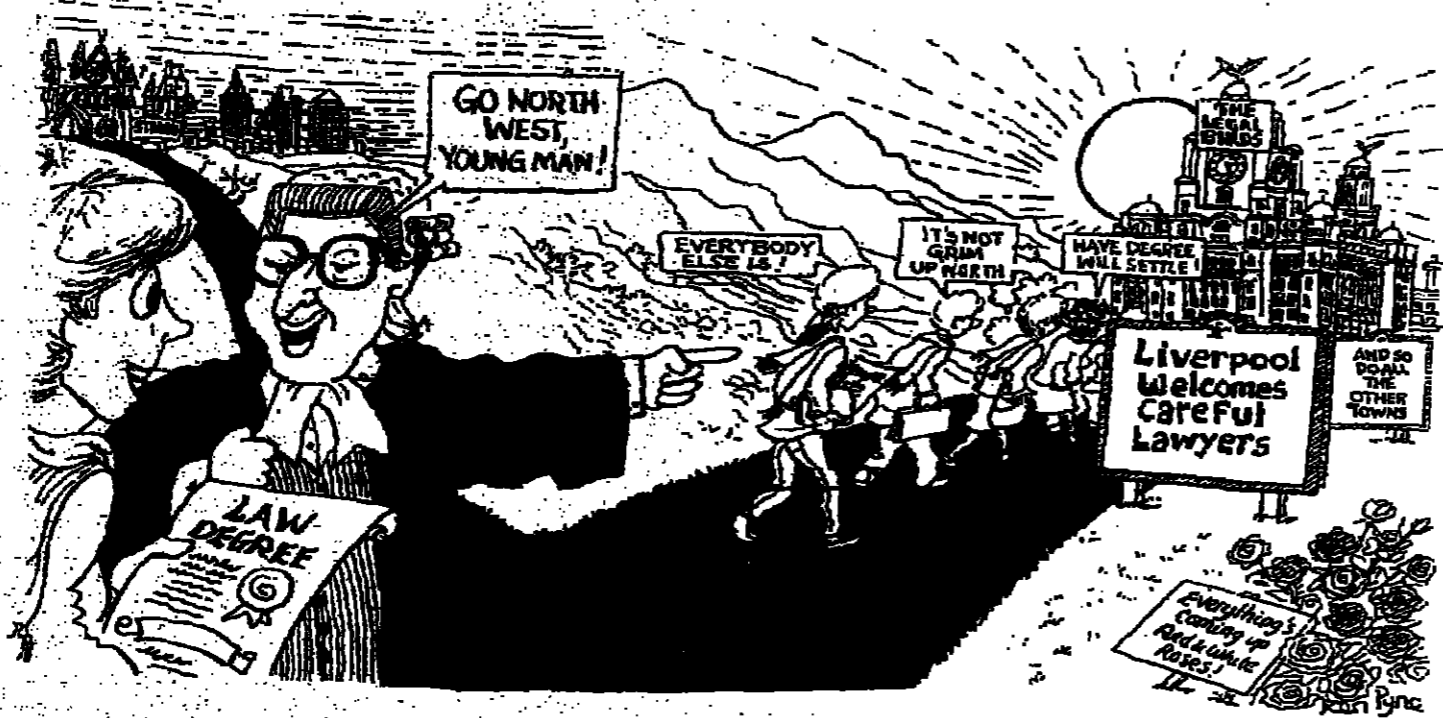
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In Liverpool and Manchester, the legal market is bubbling as businesses take their custom to local firms



## The challenge to London grows

The Bar in the North West is increasingly giving London barristers a run for their money, according to leading law firms in the area. Carol Jackson, the head of personal-injury work at Manchester-based Pannone & Partners, says that her department rarely uses London counsel.

Nigel Shepherd, the head of the family division at Berrymans Lace Mawer, agrees there is a lot of local talent but adds that there are still gaps. "I do not think we are over-endowed with top silks for divorce-money cases," he says.

Paul Nicholls, the regional managing partner at Dibb Lupton Alsop, believes the local Commercial Bar is going from strength to strength — now London-based chambers are struggling to compete. "Manchester's commercial law scene is extremely strong and can support a Commercial Bar, which it was once unable to. We are increasingly seeing London chambers coming here to make presentations, looking for work. It is making them think carefully about setting up serious satellite operations in the area." Richard Henriques, QC, the head of the Northern Circuit, agrees. "When I came to the Bar it was accepted that the big commercial actions would be conducted by London counsel. That has slowly but surely come to an end."

Mr Nicholls says that with the growth in work has come a growth in confidence among local chambers. "The Manchester Bar has always been impressive," he adds, "but it used to be quietly impressive. Now it is banging its own drum a bit more — but there is still plenty more scope for expansion."

David Berkley certainly hopes so. He is the head of Merchant Chambers, which he set up with three colleagues in November 1996 to service the business community. Just over a year later, the chambers has eight barristers and, Mr Berkley says, it is starting to attract more senior recruits. To attract high-calibre commercial work, he says, "barristers need a high profile. They cannot get that profile without setting up a set of chambers dedicated to this kind of work."

Almost the opposite impetus lies behind the launch of another new local set. Colnden House Chambers, now 39 barristers, was formed by the merger of a chancery and a common law set. Stuart Neale, a member of Colnden House, says: "We saw the way ahead was to provide as wide a range of specialist advice under one roof as possible. To some extent, we were following the same logic of local firms which have also merged to offer more services."

Being bigger means economies of scale — one library, one clerking arrangement — can be reflected in competitive fee rates, he adds. Whatever the size of the chambers, local firms agree that barristers are becoming far more service-oriented.

FIONA BAWDON

## Lime Street takes on allcomers

In a move that would have been unthinkable a decade ago, Liverpool City Council has teamed up with the local Law Society to promote the city's legal profession. The two bodies launched a programme at the end of last month under the title "Liverpool's Legal Square Mile" to remind the business community on Merseyside that it does not need to leave Lime Street to obtain first-rate legal services. Noel Fagan, a partner with Hill Dickinson and president of the Liverpool Law Society, said: "A few years ago the council would have been unsympathetic to this kind of initiative but now it is fully supportive. We couldn't have asked for anything more from the city."

The fact that Liverpool is mounting this campaign reflects both the strength of the law firms in the city and also, perhaps, the need for Liverpool to distinguish itself from Manchester. Local commentators are reluctant to admit any overt competition between the cities and, admittedly, the traditions in the two legal communities are different.

Liverpool continues its historic strengths in shipping law, employment law and insurance together with the litigation that goes with it. Firms such as Weightmans and Berrymans Lace Mawer, for example, uphold standards of excellence in contentious work which Liverpoolian lawyers regard as their birthright. Liverpool lawyers also have, for obvious reasons, strong links with their opposite numbers in Dublin and Belfast. In their

specialist fields, in other words, Liverpool firms feel that they are pitching for the national market.

Meanwhile, Manchester has steamed ahead as one of the four key legal centres outside London with the capacity to offer mainstream corporate and banking services of a high order. In the past few years it has drawn in top national firms — including most notably Garretts, the legal wing of Arthur Andersen — to give the city an up-beat legal infrastructure which enables it to take on virtually any work short of specialist multi-jurisdictional banking transactions.

Everheds, Hammond Suddards, Masons, Davies Arnold Cooper, Adleshaw Booth & Co, Dibb Lupton Alsop (which also has an office in Liverpool) are all to be found in Manchester's commercial centre, plus a solid collection of smaller firms such as Cobbetts and Berg & Co, which are purely Manchester-based.

The city's growth in popularity as a legal centre owes something to its excellent transport links, but also to the reluctance of clients to send work to London if it can be done more cheaply and better closer to home. Mark Shaw of Adleshaw Booth & Co, a Manchester-Leeds merger now celebrating its first anniversary, says clients are now happy to entrust the firm with merger work of up to £50 million before they would think of using a London firm.

Masons, which operates from both London and Manchester, has a fine reputation for work in the construction field and has benefited from the massive amount of redevelopment under way in the North West.

Edward Davis, a partner, says: "About 60 per cent of our work in Manchester is regionally based, but our clients are not exclusively local. On one typical day, I have dealt with clients who are on

Merseyside, in Holland and in Edinburgh. My belief is that legal work is still largely down to personalities. If you get on well with the clients and they trust you, then they will come to you wherever you are. With modern communications, parochialism really is a thing of the past."

Jenni Brown, who provides a careers service to the College of Law in Chester, has been struck by the strong allegiance to the North West among many of the students she helps. Some, obviously, are aiming for London, but many of the best now see that they can have good careers doing high-quality work on their home ground.

"When thinking about their first appointment, many of our students realise that they don't want to endure London commuting and they are attracted by the quality of life which this area can offer. And, above all, they are encouraged by the knowledge that outside a small number of specialisms, the level of work will be the same as it is in the City of London."

With the economy now in reasonably good shape, employers are approaching Jenni Brown in droves. She says: "It's a very buoyant jobs market with a lot of vacancies."

So the North West is bubbling. This does not mean life is easy. Indeed, it is more competitive than ever — but the prizes are there for those firms with the skills and the vision to seize them.

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### THE OPPOSING ADVOCATES AS SEEN BY THEIR RIVALS

THESE are the sets and people often cited by firms:

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- 8 King Street: Ernest Ryder, QC — "built his reputation on children work"; "very nice, very measured, prepares thoroughly".
- 40 King Street: Philip Raynor, QC — "good on money divorce cases"; "good advocate, very bright"; Peter Smith, QC, Michael Booth — "very good junior, on his way to becoming a QC"; Sonia Gal — "has a way of cross-examining which looks totally conciliatory but gets straight to the answers"; Sally Harrison, Lucy Powis, Fiona Ashworth, Stephen Baker — "all four are excellent advocates".
- 18 St John Street: Mark Laprell — "useful when you need to be blunt but not over-aggressive"; Andrew Blake; David Heaton; Alistair Forrest; Nigel Poole, Simon Broadhurst and Saul Brodie — "all three are rising stars".
- 28 St John Street — "a very good set"; Lindsey Kushner, QC

- "marvellous with clients", "popular with judges, which helps"; Michael Redfern, QC — "good negotiator"; Bernard Wallwork; John Phillips; Charles Eastwood; James Rowley — "marvellous at complicated PI".
- Deans Court: Alan Booth — "good preparation, good advocate"; Karen Brody — "tough cross-examiner"; David Heaton; Mark Turner; Lady Ruth Trippier; Louise Bancroft — "presents well"; "bright and pragmatic"; Stephen Grime, QC — "very popular".

**LIVERPOOL**

- Oriel Chambers: Andrew Sander — "good on complex family money cases";
- Ground Floor, Peel House: Martyn Bennett — "very good on divorce money cases";
- Third Floor, Peel House, Maureen Roddy — "particularly good with children".

Andrew Harris, a partner at Dibb Lupton Alsop, says good local sets are "going straight into



Richard Henriques, QC

the 21st century" in their use of technology. Barristers are more willing to be flexible and there is "more science" in the way they work out their fees ("although they all still land it on a bit"). Pannone & Partners' Carol Jackson agrees there is more of a sense of partnership. "If I have a difficult case, I don't necessarily want a full-blown conference but I might want to go round to have a chat for ten minutes," she says.

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For further information in complete confidence, please contact Katherine Highfield, Carol Barber or Graham Manley (all qualified lawyers) at QD Legal - North, LEEDS: 3rd Floor, Royal Exchange House, Boar Lane, Leeds LS1 5NS. Tel: 0113-242 9700 (0113-275 9929 evenings/weekends) Confidential fax: 0113-242 3033. MANCHESTER: Regency Court, 62-66 Deansgate, Manchester M3 2EN. Tel: 0161-834 5977 (01904 414631 evenings/weekends) Confidential fax: 0161-834 5985

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RACING: NICHOLSON'S STABLE JOCKEY RETURNS TO THE SADDLE AT LEICESTER

Maguire prepares for comeback

By Richard Evans Racing Correspondent

ADRIAN MAGUIRE, who has been unable to ride since sustaining a wrist injury at Kempton on December 27, returns to the saddle at Leicester today.

After a meeting yesterday with his consultant, Dr Michael Foy, Maguire said: "Everything's fine. I have to see the racecourse doctor at Leicester, but that is a formality. It will be good to be back and, hopefully, I will stay out of trouble for Cheltenham."

The reference to the Festival was particularly significant, as Maguire has missed the

Richard Evans

Nag: Victor Laszlo (2.00 Sedgefield) The lightly rated Victor Laszlo looks well treated on his handicap debut. A fair third over 2 1/2 miles at Musselburgh last time, he should not be inconvenienced by the return to a shorter trip.

Next best: Shanavogh (4.30 Sedgefield)

Festival for the last three seasons. In 1995 his brother, Phyllis, died; in 1996, he broke a collarbone at Newbury; last year, he broke an arm at Leicester.

His rides today are Macegoe for Richard Lee in the Trial Handicap Chase, and Bakkar, trained by his employer, David Nicholson, in the Somerby Juvenile Novices' Hurdle.

Rod Millman will study the weights before deciding whether Kendal Cavalier attempts to complete a treble in Saturday's John Hughes Grand National Trial at Chepstow.

The trainer entered the recent Cheltenham and Uttox-



Maguire returns to action at Leicester today after recovering from a broken wrist

ter winner yesterday for the £20,000-added event, for which weights are published today. But he said: "Kendal Cavalier is very well, but he is not a definite runner at this stage. I put him in because it costs only £20 to have a look.

But he won't run if he isn't in the weights, unless he's just 3lb or 4lb out."

Kendal Cavalier is among several Martell Grand National entries in a field of 19 put in the Chepstow contest. Paul Nicholls has engaged Aintree entry Court Melody, a winner on the last two Saturdays, plus Ottawa and With Impunity.

Tim Forster could use the race as a Grand National prep for Buck Jakes and River Mandate, while other Aintree candidates include Destin

D'Estraval (David Nicholson), Parsons Boy (Gordon Richards) and Samlee (Philip Hobbs).

Meanwhile, Britain's potential team for the Dubai World Cup grew by three yesterday. Publication of the second entry stage for the \$4 million event confirmed that Bahhare, Busy Flight and rank outsider Statistician had been added to the international contest, which takes place on March 28.

They join the likes of Centre Stalls, Luso and Romanov in an 11-strong British entry for a race Michael Stoute won with Singpiel 12 months ago.

A total of 28 horses were added to the ten-furlong event at the second stage, bringing the final list of nominations up to 112. They will be reduced to a final line-up of 14 for the group one race by an international panel of handicappers.

The John Dunlop-trained Bahhare, a top two-year-old of 1996, made the frame in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot and the Dubai Champion Stakes at Newmarket last year. Barry Hills's Busy Flight, a listed winner at Doncaster last autumn, was third in the St Simon Stakes at Newbury last October.

But the handicapping team will have to delve deeper into the form book to analyse John Berry's Statistician, who finished third off a weight of 47 at Lingfield last Saturday.

Erintante, Francois Doumen's French raider, booked her trip to the Cheltenham Festival after winning at Plumpton yesterday. Erintante is entered in the two-mile Citroen Supreme Novices' Hurdle and the half-mile further Royal & Sun Alliance Novices' Hurdle at the Festival, but Doumen said: "I favour the longer race as she stays so well. She will not run again before Cheltenham."

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Table with columns for race name, time, and winners. Includes races like '2.00 (2m) 110yd ch', '3.30 (2m) ch', and '4.40 (1m) 110yd ch'.

Table with columns for race name, time, and winners. Includes races like '2.00 (2m) 110yd ch', '3.30 (2m) ch', and '4.40 (1m) 110yd ch'.

SPECIALISTS

Table listing specialist races and winners, including 'Lingfield Park' and 'Sedgefield'.

Table for THUNDERER race, listing horses and jockeys.

Table for 2.00 LEVY BOARD NOVICES HURDLE, listing horses and jockeys.

Table for 2.30 AYLDFE NOVICES HURDLE, listing horses and jockeys.

Table for 3.00 TRIMDON HANDICAP HURDLE, listing horses and jockeys.

Table for 2.10 DOROGNE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN, listing horses and jockeys.

Table for 2.40 RHONE HANDICAP, listing horses and jockeys.

Table for 3.10 CHEEVER LOOPHOLE OF AMT COURSE, listing horses and jockeys.

Table for 3.30 TOTE NOVICES CHASE, listing horses and jockeys.

Table for 4.00 JACK BRITTON MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE, listing horses and jockeys.

Table for 4.30 ST EDMUNDS NOVICES CHASE, listing horses and jockeys.

Table for 5.00 SEDGEFIELD MAIDEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT, listing horses and jockeys.

Table for 3.40 AWESOME POWER CLAIMING STAKES, listing horses and jockeys.

Table for 4.10 AINSIE HANDICAP, listing horses and jockeys.

Table for 4.40 GIRONDE HANDICAP, listing horses and jockeys.

Advertisement for SHEEHAN on BRIDGE, featuring Robert Sheehan and Martin Jones.

Advertisement for KEENE on CHESS, featuring Raymond Keene and chess-related content.

Advertisement for THUNDERER, featuring a horse and jockey.

Advertisement for 3.50 TRIAL HANDICAP CHASE, featuring a horse and jockey.

Advertisement for WORD-WATCHING, featuring a word game.

Advertisement for WINNING MOVE, featuring a chess puzzle.

Advertisement for 2.50 VICARAGE CLAIMING HURDLE, featuring a horse and jockey.

Advertisement for 4.20 SOMERBY JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE, featuring a horse and jockey.

Advertisement for STREAK PLATE, featuring a word game.

Advertisement for BRATTISHING, featuring a word game.

Advertisement for 3.20 THURBY MAIDEN CHASE, featuring a horse and jockey.

Advertisement for 4.50 DADDY HANDICAP HURDLE, featuring a horse and jockey.

Large advertisement for RACELINE, featuring a grid of numbers and promotional text.

Winter Olympic Games: United States look for excuses after defeat

Canada ice storm proves too hot in grudge match

FROM ROB HUGHES IN NAGANO

"THERE'S gonna be a lot of hard hits out there... but hey, that's hockey, baby."

Before Team Canada took the ice against Team USA in the first Olympic ice hockey tournament to have shut down the National Hockey League (NHL), those words from Rob Zamuner ran with sub-titles on Japanese television.

The Olympic Truce that we keep hearing about might have been designed to clean up hockey during these Games. There is a pact to tone down the violence that is as intrinsic as skill to the NHL, but the brawl seen here already would bring a sine die ban in football.

In one respect, it is difficult to tell the sexes apart. Yesterday, the men had been in combat at Big Hat arena for barely 30 seconds when Adam Deadmarsh, presumably targeted because he was born in Canada but represents the United States, suffered a broken nose. Yet the women appear just as driven by American-Canadian rivalry, engaging in a brawl during their match on Sunday, which was won by the United States 7-1.

Sharon Miller, an under-over cop in Calgary, whose cover is surely blown now that her coaching role with the Canadians has been exposed, swore that the brawl started because an American player made a disparaging comment to Danielle Goyette, of Canada, regarding her father's death from Alzheimer's disease shortly before the Olympics. The sides, who already had topped their groups, will meet again in the final today.

Hey, that's hockey, baby. The men still have a way to go before the medal stage. Somehow, with CBS, the American television network, attracting record viewing to these grudge rivals, Teams USA and Canada were guaranteed quarter-final status. Canada, though, inrouned the United States 4-1, third straight win and a second

heavy defeat for the Americans.

The United States offered a whole bunch of reasons for the defeat, although none took such liberties with the English language as the suggestion that Canada "under-womanised" the women's team by leaving out two key players on Sunday. The United States could not afford to tackle Canada undermanned — or "under-manised" — in the aftermath of accusations that Gary Suter, an American, had deliberately concussed Paul Kariya, a Canadian, during an NHL game to put Kariya out of the Games.

Hey babes, remember these are the Olympic Games and there is a gentlemen's agreement to tone down the body-



WINTER GAMES

checking and the slashing with sticks that are part and parcel of NHL. The whole exercise is supposed to sell hockey to a wider audience.

Alas, it's kinda difficult to stop doing what comes naturally. NHL players are scattered among nine national teams here and we are assured that the "goons" — the cynically destructive guys — have been left behind. Some of the rest are wizards on skates. They move as fast as the eye can see, faster than it looks on television. They spin, check, change foot and change the direction of the game with a pace beyond that of any other sport.

Patrick Roy, the lightning-fast French-Canadian goaltender, left Ron Wilson, the Team USA coach, exasperated yesterday, after saving 30

shots. The Americans had more of the puck, but Canada used the big rink better and broke sharply, not least after Wayne Gretzky used his stick illegally to hook an opponent behind the knee for Canada's first two-minute penalty. Then Joe Sakic, for slashing Suter's legs, and Rob Zamuner, for barging and holding, earned simultaneous punishments.

Hey, that's hockey, baby. Zamuner opened the scoring about 15 seconds after rejoining the game. He burst down the left and crossed to Sakic, who wove between two Americans. Then Gretzky, sparingly seen, provided a touch of genius to pick out Zamuner, waiting to strike.

He was doing time in the penalty cage again when Canada doubled their lead in the second period through Keith Primeau. Sakic and Primeau added further goals before, in the final minute, Brett Hull hit a consolation.

Team USA searched for excuses. Some speaks, however, said that Hull had no right to be drinking, allegedly, at Sam before a match, even if he was imbibing the Olympic spirit.

The budget from the United States Olympic Committee for the hockey team alone is \$6.3 million (about £3.5 million), but that will not necessarily buy the medal. Canada has invested millions, too.

Last night, however, there came a whiff of scandal that could have affected the seedings. The International Ice Hockey Federation found that Ulf Samuelson, an unused reserve defender when Sweden beat Team USA 4-2 last Friday, had taken American citizenship and was ineligible to play for Sweden. Sweden have retained their No 2 ranking, avoiding a virtual rewrite of the tournament schedule. Team USA and Team Canada remain on course for a semi-final meeting.

Hey, that's hockey, baby.



Canadians swarm over Leith Tkachuk, of the United States, during the quarter-final

Seizinger at the double

FROM ROB HUGHES

AT LAST, on a clear day, the mountains of Nagano allowed the world to see the world's bravest and best skiers in all their finery. As soon as the mist had dispelled on Mount Karanata, Hermann Maier and Katja Seizinger took their places among the outstanding figures of the 1998 Winter Olympic Games.

Indeed, in Seizinger's case, she joined the ranks of those who have earned a unique place in the history of the Games. Not only did she win an Olympic gold medal, she became the first skier, man or woman, to defend the Olympic downhill title, a honour to crown a dominant season in

which she had already equalled the record of Jean-Claude Killy in winning six consecutive World Cup races.

In fact, she won a women's downhill twice within an hour, winning the blue ribbon event outright from Pernilla Wiberg, of Sweden, and Florence Masnadra, of France, and then defeating Wiberg again in the downhill that constitutes the first leg of the women's combined.

In each case, the German outraced the Swede by a third of a second. In the senior downhill, she put double that distance between herself and Picabo Street, of the United States, who had surprised even herself by winning the women's super-giant slalom last weekend.

"I really liked these conditions," Seizinger said. "It's really unexpected in my life to be the first person to win the gold medal for the downhill in back-to-back Olympics. It is the dream. I never thought I would be the one to set that standard."

Maier, just three days after his spectacular fall in the downhill, left everyone gasping for the right reasons as he skied the 2,407-metre course

perfectly to become the Olympic champion in the men's super-giant slalom, which mixes the daring of the downhill with slalom techniques.

He benefited from the interminable postponements that gave him time to recover from his downhill fall and then instinctive ability got him down the mountain safely and more quickly than others could match.

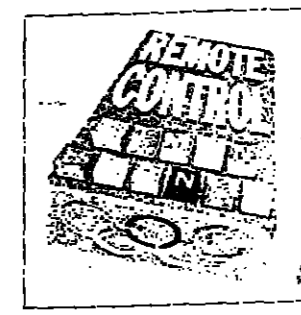
"I never expected this after what happened on Friday," Maier, the former bricklayer from Austria, said, "but I am happy to be an Olympic champion."

Happy? He should have been ecstatic, for no one else came within half a second of his run down the icy, thin layer of snow.

Indeed, for Graham Bell and Andrew Freshwater, of Great Britain, it was a struggle to get within five seconds of Maier. Bell, in his fifth and final Olympic Games, finished 31st, Freshwater, 33rd, testimony not merely to the problems of Englishmen acclimatising to alpine events but to the severe lack of funding available to help even those obsessed with doing so — as Bell is, persevering still after an horrendous knee cruciate ligament injury 12 years ago.

Enlightenment dawns after act of defiance

My grandfather used to take me to the cricket at Edgbaston and when I sit in the press box there, my eyes always make a brief and pious pilgrimage to the place, halfway up the steeply-raked stand to the pavilion's right, where we used to sit. A small boy with a passion for M. J. K. Smith and a tall, frail man with the sandwiches in a small leather suitcase.



I always remember his confession. "Oh no," he said. "It's some years since I last saw the ball. Oh no, I don't see the ball at all." I was reminded powerfully of my grandfather when I watched Canada play the United States at ice hockey.

When television goes through one of its periodic attempts to sell ice hockey to a really-not-frightfully-interested nation, it stresses speed, commitment, violence. They keep quiet about the sport's ever-so-slightly-crucial drawback — you cannot see the ball.

Or puck. Mind you, this does not leave television viewers notably deprived. You can't see the puck when you watch the sport live, either. I have watched, amused and bemused, as teams in Madison Square Garden battled it out in the National Hockey League (NHL) of North America and I have watched the British stuff, too. All is fine, other than the fact that the neophyte has not the remotest clue about what is going on out there.

They have tried all kinds of things to make the ball tele-visible in squash. The problem they battle with is that the game looks stunningly pointless whether you can see the ball or not. That is ever the problem of complicated, exotic sports. To snare the uncommitted, you need real drama. Whipped-up enthusiasm will not do; we see through television's oversell as a matter of routine. Ice hockey needs sudden, explosive drama that takes us straight to the heartland of an unfamiliar sport. Straight into the heartland of sport itself.

And this happened when the United States, right in the first period with the game still scoreless, had five outfield players on the ice, Canada, because of various sins, only three. We had several hundred shots on target in a desperate 90 seconds of frenzy — and even a few sightings of that round, black thing.

It was glorious stuff, it really was. We had been told to watch the Canadians in order to revel in the skills of a man named Gretzky. Instead, we were given a new hero in Patrick Roy, the

Canada goalie, a veritable Tomaszewski inflated to the size of a barrage balloon. How he withstood that 90-second battering no one knows: diving, rolling, grabbing, using every padded bit of his anatomy to get between his little cage and the vicious invisible puck.

Watching the basketball "Dream Team" at the past two summer Games was a fundamentally ghastly experience. Massive victories by a team strolling through its matches do not heat the sporting blood. By the second time, even Americans had got bored with the American dominance, and that takes a bit of doing.

I am still not altogether at ease with the concept at the present Winter Games, but at least there is more than one dream team. The NHL is full of foreigners and a good handful of nations in Nagano have teams packed with NHL stars. This is a competition, not a cakewalk.

And the idea of America losing is something that most of the world can take in its stride. Canada won 4-1 and, by the end, sucked in to close attention by the drama of Roy against the world, I was beginning to understand how my grandfather enjoyed his cricket.

You read bodies, intentions, movements. You begin to learn what players are trying to do and, by watching their patterns and their shapes, you begin to see whether they have succeeded. Slowly, you begin to savour the unexpected, the move that breaks the pattern.

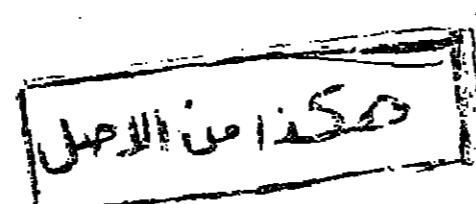
And now I think of it, I see that you really do not need to see the ball to understand that M. J. K. Smith had nibbled at an outswinger and edged one to first slip, or that Norman Horner was beaten for pace, or that Big Jim Stewart was at the top of his rawny form. You just need love and common sense and knowledge — and my grandfather had bags of that.

I don't think I will sum up quite that level of enthusiasm for the Olympic ice hockey tournament, but it is good to think of Edgbaston again. "What a shot!" "Beautifully played," my grandfather agreed. Unseeing.

Advertisement for a car, featuring the text: 'YOU'LL SELL YOUR CAR FASTER WHEN YOU RING TIMES CLASSIFIED.' and the phone number '0171 481 4000'.

Table with columns for 'RESULTS AND DETAILS FROM NAGANO', 'TIMETABLE OF EVENTS', 'MEDALS TABLE', 'SNOW REPORTS', and 'ICE HOCKEY'. It lists various sports events, medal counts, and weather conditions.

Section titled 'Eagles have champagne style on ice'. It discusses the success of the British ice hockey team (the Eagles) in winning the Superleague Cup.





FOOTBALL

Shareholder calls for Lee to resign 'if he has any pride'

By DAVID MADDOCK FRANCIS LEE will face a vote of no confidence from within his own boardroom...

holds a 19 per cent stake in Manchester City. Will ask other shareholders to back him in his attempt to oust Lee...

thing we want is total upheaval, but it is Catch 22. If we go down it, could lead to oblivion...

Clubs charged with poaching new talent

FOUR FA Carling Premiership clubs have been charged with trying to poach young players from other teams...

Cardiff City yesterday. Burrows, who had been under taking scouting and coaching work with West Ham United...

Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, is close to completing a £1.5 million deal for Don Hutchison...

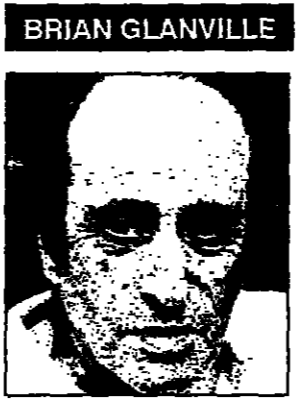


Kasey Keller, the United States goalkeeper, is powerless to prevent Luis Hernandez scoring Mexico's winning goal

Mexico have that golden glow

For the third time in a row, Mexico have won the Concacaf Gold Cup, beating the United States 1-0 in the final...

to them in the third-place match. Romario scoring after 77 minutes. Mario Zagallo, the besieged Brazil coach...



Brian Glanville

Overseas View

Guinea, whose goalkeeper, Djarr, tried to attack his opponent number at the end...

Cameroon, who have recovered after a shaky start, beat a disappointing Algeria 2-1 after going a goal behind...

CRICKET: SPINNERS BOWL ENGLAND A TO SURPRISE SUCCESS AS AZHAR SAVES PAKISTAN WITH IMPRESSIVE CENTURY

Giles seals series victory

MORATUWA (final day of four): England A beat Sri Lanka A by seven wickets...

going to fail. David Sales crashing the decisive boundary through the covers with 21 balls to spare...

kerate, the Sri Lanka captain, having been again unsettled by Ormond, had second thoughts about playing a stroke at Giles...



Azhar: fine century

Police begin new inquiry

JOHANNESBURG (third day of five): South Africa, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 35 runs behind Pakistan...

spoke to both players at close of play yesterday. Bacher had a meeting with the Pakistan management...

said yesterday in Lahore that he was ready to take on the leadership again 'if needed'.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS: NATIONAL INDOOR ARENA, Birmingham. 400m: 1.5.10.2.5.10.15.20.30.45.1.00.1.30.2.00.3.00.4.00.5.00.6.00.7.00.8.00.9.00.10.00.11.00.12.00.13.00.14.00.15.00.16.00.17.00.18.00.19.00.20.00.21.00.22.00.23.00.24.00.25.00.26.00.27.00.28.00.29.00.30.00.31.00.32.00.33.00.34.00.35.00.36.00.37.00.38.00.39.00.40.00.41.00.42.00.43.00.44.00.45.00.46.00.47.00.48.00.49.00.50.00.51.00.52.00.53.00.54.00.55.00.56.00.57.00.58.00.59.00.60.00.61.00.62.00.63.00.64.00.65.00.66.00.67.00.68.00.69.00.70.00.71.00.72.00.73.00.74.00.75.00.76.00.77.00.78.00.79.00.80.00.81.00.82.00.83.00.84.00.85.00.86.00.87.00.88.00.89.00.90.00.91.00.92.00.93.00.94.00.95.00.96.00.97.00.98.00.99.00.100.00.101.00.102.00.103.00.104.00.105.00.106.00.107.00.108.00.109.00.110.00.111.00.112.00.113.00.114.00.115.00.116.00.117.00.118.00.119.00.120.00.121.00.122.00.123.00.124.00.125.00.126.00.127.00.128.00.129.00.130.00.131.00.132.00.133.00.134.00.135.00.136.00.137.00.138.00.139.00.140.00.141.00.142.00.143.00.144.00.145.00.146.00.147.00.148.00.149.00.150.00.151.00.152.00.153.00.154.00.155.00.156.00.157.00.158.00.159.00.160.00.161.00.162.00.163.00.164.00.165.00.166.00.167.00.168.00.169.00.170.00.171.00.172.00.173.00.174.00.175.00.176.00.177.00.178.00.179.00.180.00.181.00.182.00.183.00.184.00.185.00.186.00.187.00.188.00.189.00.190.00.191.00.192.00.193.00.194.00.195.00.196.00.197.00.198.00.199.00.200.00.201.00.202.00.203.00.204.00.205.00.206.00.207.00.208.00.209.00.210.00.211.00.212.00.213.00.214.00.215.00.216.00.217.00.218.00.219.00.220.00.221.00.222.00.223.00.224.00.225.00.226.00.227.00.228.00.229.00.230.00.231.00.232.00.233.00.234.00.235.00.236.00.237.00.238.00.239.00.240.00.241.00.242.00.243.00.244.00.245.00.246.00.247.00.248.00.249.00.250.00.251.00.252.00.253.00.254.00.255.00.256.00.257.00.258.00.259.00.260.00.261.00.262.00.263.00.264.00.265.00.266.00.267.00.268.00.269.00.270.00.271.00.272.00.273.00.274.00.275.00.276.00.277.00.278.00.279.00.280.00.281.00.282.00.283.00.284.00.285.00.286.00.287.00.288.00.289.00.290.00.291.00.292.00.293.00.294.00.295.00.296.00.297.00.298.00.299.00.300.00.301.00.302.00.303.00.304.00.305.00.306.00.307.00.308.00.309.00.310.00.311.00.312.00.313.00.314.00.315.00.316.00.317.00.318.00.319.00.320.00.321.00.322.00.323.00.324.00.325.00.326.00.327.00.328.00.329.00.330.00.331.00.332.00.333.00.334.00.335.00.336.00.337.00.338.00.339.00.340.00.341.00.342.00.343.00.344.00.345.00.346.00.347.00.348.00.349.00.350.00.351.00.352.00.353.00.354.00.355.00.356.00.357.00.358.00.359.00.360.00.361.00.362.00.363.00.364.00.365.00.366.00.367.00.368.00.369.00.370.00.371.00.372.00.373.00.374.00.375.00.376.00.377.00.378.00.379.00.380.00.381.00.382.00.383.00.384.00.385.00.386.00.387.00.388.00.389.00.390.00.391.00.392.00.393.00.394.00.395.00.396.00.397.00.398.00.399.00.400.00.401.00.402.00.403.00.404.00.405.00.406.00.407.00.408.00.409.00.410.00.411.00.412.00.413.00.414.00.415.00.416.00.417.00.418.00.419.00.420.00.421.00.422.00.423.00.424.00.425.00.426.00.427.00.428.00.429.00.430.00.431.00.432.00.433.00.434.00.435.00.436.00.437.00.438.00.439.00.440.00.441.00.442.00.443.00.444.00.445.00.446.00.447.00.448.00.449.00.450.00.451.00.452.00.453.00.454.00.455.00.456.00.457.00.458.00.459.00.460.00.461.00.462.00.463.00.464.00.465.00.466.00.467.00.468.00.469.00.470.00.471.00.472.00.473.00.474.00.475.00.476.00.477.00.478.00.479.00.480.00.481.00.482.00.483.00.484.00.485.00.486.00.487.00.488.00.489.00.490.00.491.00.492.00.493.00.494.00.495.00.496.00.497.00.498.00.499.00.500.00.501.00.502.00.503.00.504.00.505.00.506.00.507.00.508.00.509.00.510.00.511.00.512.00.513.00.514.00.515.00.516.00.517.00.518.00.519.00.520.00.521.00.522.00.523.00.524.00.525.00.526.00.527.00.528.00.529.00.530.00.531.00.532.00.533.00.534.00.535.00.536.00.537.00.538.00.539.00.540.00.541.00.542.00.543.00.544.00.545.00.546.00.547.00.548.00.549.00.550.00.551.00.552.00.553.00.554.00.555.00.556.00.557.00.558.00.559.00.560.00.561.00.562.00.563.00.564.00.565.00.566.00.567.00.568.00.569.00.570.00.571.00.572.00.573.00.574.00.575.00.576.00.577.00.578.00.579.00.580.00.581.00.582.00.583.00.584.00.585.00.586.00.587.00.588.00.589.00.590.00.591.00.592.00.593.00.594.00.595.00.596.00.597.00.598.00.599.00.600.00.601.00.602.00.603.00.604.00.605.00.606.00.607.00.608.00.609.00.610.00.611.00.612.00.613.00.614.00.615.00.616.00.617.00.618.00.619.00.620.00.621.00.622.00.623.00.624.00.625.00.626.00.627.00.628.00.629.00.630.00.631.00.632.00.633.00.634.00.635.00.636.00.637.00.638.00.639.00.640.00.641.00.642.00.643.00.644.00.645.00.646.00.647.00.648.00.649.00.650.00.651.00.652.00.653.00.654.00.655.00.656.00.657.00.658.00.659.00.660.00.661.00.662.00.663.00.664.00.665.00.666.00.667.00.668.00.669.00.670.00.671.00.672.00.673.00.674.00.675.00.676.00.677.00.678.00.679.00.680.00.681.00.682.00.683.00.684.00.685.00.686.00.687.00.688.00.689.00.690.00.691.00.692.00.693.00.694.00.695.00.696.00.697.00.698.00.699.00.700.00.701.00.702.00.703.00.704.00.705.00.706.00.707.00.708.00.709.00.710.00.711.00.712.00.713.00.714.00.715.00.716.00.717.00.718.00.719.00.720.00.721.00.722.00.723.00.724.00.725.00.72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ATHLETICS

NATIONAL INDOOR ARENA, Birmingham. 400m: 1.5.10.2.5.10.15.20.30.45.1.00.1.30.2.00.3.00.4.00.5.00.6.00.7.00.8.00.9.00.10.00.11.00.12.00.13.00.14.00.15.00.16.00.17.00.18.00.19.00.20.00.21.00.22.00.23.00.24.00.25.00.26.00.27.00.28.00.29.00.30.00.31.00.32.00.33.00.34.00.35.00.36.00.37.00.38.00.39.00.40.00.41.00.42.00.43.00.44.00.45.00.46.00.47.00.48.00.49.00.50.00.51.00.52.00.53.00.54.00.55.00.56.00.57.00.58.00.59.00.60.00.61.00.62.00.63.00.64.00.65.00.66.00.67.00.68.00.69.00.70.00.71.00.72.00.73.00.74.00.75.00.76.00.77.00.78.00.79.00.80.00.81.00.82.00.83.00.84.00.85.00.86.00.87.00.88.00.89.00.90.00.91.00.92.00.93.00.94.00.95.00.96.00.97.00.98.00.99.00.100.00.101.00.102.00.103.00.104.00.105.00.106.00.107.00.108.00.109.00.110.00.111.00.112.00.113.00.114.00.115.00.116.00.117.00.118.00.119.00.120.00.121.00.122.00.123.00.124.00.125.00.126.00.127.00.128.00.129.00.130.00.131.00.132.00.133.00.134.00.135.00.136.00.137.00.138.00.139.00.140.00.141.00.142.00.143.00.144.00.145.00.146.00.147.00.148.00.149.00.150.00.151.00.152.00.153.00.154.00.155.00.156.00.157.00.158.00.159.00.160.00.161.00.162.00.163.00.164.00.165.00.166.00.167.00.168.00.169.00.170.00.171.00.172.00.173.00.174.00.175.00.176.00.177.00.178.00.179.00.180.00.181.00.182.00.183.00.184.00.185.00.186.00.187.00.188.00.189.00.190.00.191.00.192.00.193.00.194.00.195.00.196.00.197.00.198.00.199.00.200.00.201.00.202.00.203.00.204.00.205.00.206.00.207.00.208.00.209.00.210.00.211.00.212.00.213.00.214.00.215.00.216.00.217.00.218.00.219.00.220.00.221.00.222.00.223.00.224.00.225.00.226.00.227.00.228.00.229.00.230.00.231.00.232.00.233.00.234.00.235.00.236.00.237.00.238.00.239.00.240.00.241.00.242.00.243.00.244.00.245.00.246.00.247.00.248.00.249.00.250.00.251.00.252.00.253.00.254.00.255.00.256.00.257.00.258.00.259.00.260.00.261.00.262.00.263.00.264.00.265.00.266.00.267.00.268.00.269.00.270.00.271.00.272.00.273.00.274.00.275.00.276.00.277.00.278.00.279.00.280.00.281.00.282.00.283.00.284.00.285.00.286.00.287.00.288.00.289.00.290.00.291.00.292.00.293.00.294.00.295.00.296.00.297.00.298.00.299.00.300.00.301.00.302.00.303.00.304.00.305.00.306.00.307.00.308.00.309.00.310.00.311.00.312.00.313.00.314.00.315.00.316.00.317.00.318.00.319.00.320.00.321.00.322.00.323.00.324.00.325.00.326.00.327.00.328.00.329.00.330.00.331.00.332.00.333.00.334.00.335.00.336.00.337.00.338.00.339.00.340.00.341.00.342.00.343.00.344.00.345.00.346.00.347.00.348.00.349.00.350.00.351.00.352.00.353.00.354.00.355.00.356.00.357.00.358.00.359.00.360.00.361.00.362.00.363.00.364.00.365.00.366.00.367.00.368.00.369.00.370.00.371.00.372.00.373.00.374.00.375.00.376.00.377.00.378.00.379.00.380.00.381.00.382.00.383.00.384.00.385.00.386.00.387.00.388.00.389.00.390.00.391.00.392.00.393.00.394.00.395.00.396.00.397.00.398.00.399.00.400.00.401.00.402.00.403.00.404.00.405.00.406.00.407.00.408.00.409.00.410.00.411.00.412.00.413.00.414.00.415.00.416.00.417.00.418.00.419.00.420.00.421.00.422.00.423.00.424.00.425.00.426.00.427.00.428.00.429.00.430.00.431.00.432.00.433.00.434.00.435.00.436.00.437.00.438.00.439.00.440.00.441.00.442.00.443.00.444.00.445.00.446.00.447.00.448.00.449.00.450.00.451.00.452.00.453.00.454.00.455.00.456.00.457.00.458.00.459.00.460.00.461.00.462.00.463.00.464.00.465.00.466.00.467.00.468.00.469.00.470.00.471.00.472.00.473.00.474.00.475.00.476.00.477.00.478.00.479.00.480.00.481.00.482.00.483.00.484.00.485.00.486.00.487.00.488.00.489.00.490.00.491.00.492.00.493.00.494.00.495.00.496.00.497.00.498.00.499.00.500.00.501.00.502.00.503.00.504.00.505.00.506.00.507.00.508.00.509.00.510.00.511.00.512.00.513.00.514.00.515.00.516.00.517.00.518.00.519.00.520.00.521.00.522.00.523.00.524.00.525.00.526.00.527.00.528.00.529.00.530.00.531.00.532.00.533.00.534.0

RUGBY UNION: ENGLAND LOOK TO END RUN OF SEVEN INTERNATIONALS WITHOUT A WIN

# Woodward seeks to break drought

### David Hands, rugby correspondent, looks at possible changes to the England side for the match against Wales on Saturday

ENGLAND will name their team this morning to play Wales at Twickenham on Saturday amid concern that they lost their tactical way in the opening Five Nations Championship match in Paris, that Lawrence Dallaglio, their captain, may not be fit and that they have gone seven internationals without a win.

Wales, for all their problems, have enough experience and guile to take advantage of any uncertainty. They trained in Cardiff yesterday without Arwel Thomas and Ieuan Evans, but both players, who suffered heavy knocks over the weekend, have until Thursday to prove their fitness.

Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, was confident yesterday that the effects of the hectic programme — Evans was involved in an international and two Allied Dunbar Premiership games for Bath within eight days — will have been ironed out by then. Scott Quinnell and Barry Williams, two of the Wales players with

Richmond, the English club, should also have recovered from influenza, leaving his team eager to claim their first success at Twickenham since 1988.

Were they to do so, it would not be ruinous for England, whose management have stuck rigidly to the long-term plan of moulding a squad for the 1999 World Cup. Yet there is no doubt that long-term success would be helped considerably by winning the next match, then the next and so on, building the confidence to play the game of *huidy that* Clive Woodward, the coach, seeks.

Nor would it be a disaster if Dallaglio were forced to stand down on Saturday. Woodward acknowledged last autumn that the captaincy could be moved elsewhere, as would almost certainly be the case

during a World Cup campaign. Dallaglio himself would admit that responsibility for winning is collective.

Diprose, the Saracens captain, has the creative qualities, ball in hand, that England lacked against the French. Not that the back row in Paris was notably deficient in that respect — it was players behind the scrum who spent much of their time kicking the ball away — but Woodward may feel inclined to give his back division another run and hope that his right forwards will provide them with a better platform.

He and John Mitchell, the assistant coach, will have looked closely at the front row, where a shadow hangs over Jason Leonard. The loose-head prop has not been in dominant form and the possibility of disciplinary action still surrounds him after con-

firmation that a video is on its way from the French Rugby Federation, highlighting an incident that led to an injury to Thomas Llewellyn, the France No 8.

This could be the right time to recall to the front row Graham Rowntree, whose Leicester colleague, Richard Cockerill, is also fit once more. Cockerill hooked in the 26-26 draw against New Zealand in December, a match that, in retrospect, has coloured England's approach.

"The preparations might have been a little lightweight going on from the All Blacks game," Woodward acknowledged. "We thought we would just move on from that game, but we didn't."

Woodward said that, at his invitation, his squad members had been "totally honest about what they thought went wrong" in Paris. Having purged themselves, though, they know they cannot afford to let another game slip through their fingers.

TENNIS: AMERICAN UNDERLINES RESURGENCE WITH VICTORY OVER SAMPRAS IN SAN JOSE

# Agassi adds power to return

By Nick Szczepaniak

THE usual pleasure that people take in being proved right was denied Pete Sampras on Sunday when he lost the Sybase Open in San Jose, California, to Andre Agassi.

It was Sampras who heralded the resurgence of Agassi, the former world No 1 and Wimbledon champion, when he predicted in January that he would reach the final of the Australian Open. In the event, Agassi lost in the fourth round in Sydney to Alberto Berasategui, but justified the faith of Sampras, the present world No 1, by beating him 6-2, 6-4 in California.

It was the 35th title of Agassi's career, but his first for 18 months and his first victory over Sampras since the Canadian Open in Montreal in 1995. The two had not played each other since the ATP world championship in Hanover in November 1996, which Sampras won.

"I was hitting the ball really clean, feeling confident and making the big points," Agassi said. "I definitely was on his serve. He was feeling my pressure."



Agassi concentrates intently on a backhand during his defeat of Sampras

Sampras agreed. "I had a bad day, but he had a lot to do with it," he said. "He was just on top of his game. He looks real confident. He had a great week here. It's good for the game to see him play."

The victory — and those over Gustavo Kuerten, the French Open champion, and Michael Chang, the No 2 seed, earlier in the tournament — seems to confirm that the latest Agassi comeback is genuine. Ranked No 8 in the world at the end of 1996, he finished 1997, a year in which he failed to win a title, ranked No 12, his first finish outside the top 100 since turning professional in 1986. Mind you, even that was an improvement on November's low of No 141.

"You could see that he wasn't into it," Sampras said. "You can't do that in today's game, there are too many hungry, young guys who want

it. But I wouldn't exactly call this a comeback for Andre. It wasn't like he wasn't playing or he was injured. He had just lost a lot of confidence."

He seems to have regained that, judging by his remarks after the match on Sunday,

and has his sights set on reclaiming the world No 1 spot that he last held in 1995. In the new world rankings, announced yesterday, he had risen to No 50.

"Is Pete listening?" Agassi asked. "Yeah, I do think I can

"Big matches are what I thrive on and what he thrives on." Sampras said. "This is just one match and maybe we'll play each other a lot more this year."

One big match both would like to play in would be the final of the French Open, the only Grand Slam neither has won. "I think we can both do it," Agassi said. "It would require proper preparation, a little bit of fortune. It would be a beautiful thing."

For Agassi even to contemplate such an outcome is a sign of how far he has come on the road to reclaiming his star status of the early Nineties, when he, rather than Sampras, was seen as the glamorous new face of men's tennis.

After taking his first Grand Slam title at Wimbledon in 1992, he went on to a United

States Open win in 1994 and the world No 1 ranking a year later, but his relationship with Brooke Shields, the actress, whom he married last April, and a haircut seemed to coincide, Samson-like, with a decline in form.

Agassi is now the twentieth-highest earner on the ATP Tour this year and has already made more appearances in finals and semi-finals than in all of 1997. "This has been a two-to-three-month process," Agassi said. "I've been practicing every day for two hours and it's become a juggling act. I still haven't quite tied it all in. You see a lot of young guys on the tour now and I just need a few tournaments and time will tell."

San Jose, Agassi said, had seen his best tennis since he beat Sergi Bruguera, of Spain, to take the gold medal in the Olympic Games in 1996. "This week gives me a tremendous amount of confidence," he said. "Today, looking across the net and seeing Pete, it felt great." And that is not something you expect to hear said very often.



Graf winning return

# Idle Rusedski slips one place in world rankings

By Our Sports Staff

GREG RUSEDSKI, the Great Britain No 1, has dropped from No 8 to No 9 in the latest ATP Tour men's world rankings. However, Tim Henman has climbed from No 18 to No 17, despite three successive first-round defeats.

Rusedski's ranking is his lowest since he first moved into the top ten in October, but his drop has not come about because of lack of form. He was inactive last week and the 181 points that he gained from reaching the final in San Jose in the corresponding week last year have been expunged from his record.

Henman, despite his recent poor form,

had no points to defend last week and still has 1,766. He moved up one place. However, he will need to be in good form in the European Community Championship, which began in Antwerp yesterday, if he is to remain so high among the world's elite. Henman reached the final of the tournament last year, before losing to Marc Rosset, of Switzerland, and if the 23-year-old British No 2 suffers another first-round defeat, he could drop out of the top 20. Neither Henman nor Rusedski is in action in Antwerp today.

Henman was not named among the seeds yesterday for the Guardian Direct tournament in Battersea Park on February 23 to March 1. Rusedski is seeded

No 4. Petr Korda, of Czech Republic, is seeded No 1.

Britain will play Ukraine in group one of the Euro/African zone of the Davis Cup in Newcastle in April. Ukraine beat Denmark 3-2 in Kiev over the weekend to qualify for this second-round tie which Britain must win to progress to the World Group qualifying round in September.

Eight months after undergoing knee surgery, Steffi Graf made a winning return to competitive tennis yesterday. She and Barbara Rittner beat Meike Babel and Wilrud Probst 6-3, 6-1 in an all-German doubles match at the Faber Grand Prix in Hanover. Graf will be in singles action tomorrow.

and has his sights set on reclaiming the world No 1 spot that he last held in 1995. In the new world rankings, announced yesterday, he had risen to No 50.

"Is Pete listening?" Agassi asked. "Yeah, I do think I can

### WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 47

**STREAK PLATE**  
(b) The colour of a mineral when powdered is known as its "streak". To obtain this you rub the mineral on a piece of unglazed porcelain known as a streak plate.

**RED SHIRT**  
(c) In a manner similar to the change of frequency of sound according to the speed and direction of its source (listen to a passing ambulance), the frequency of light coming from a star also varies.

**BRATISHING**  
(b) A cresting of open carved work on top of a shrine. Also, the furnishing of the ramparts of a castle with temporary parapets or breastwork; the parapet and its works collectively.

**CENTISTOKE**  
(a) Centistoke and centipoise are related units of viscosity or "thickness" of a fluid. The latter includes specific gravity. There are two methods of measuring centistoke in a laboratory. One is by measuring the flow through a narrow tube. Two, the rate of fall of a small ball through the fluid.

**SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE**  
1... Rg5+ 2 Kx3 Qc3+ 3 Kh2 Q2+ 4 Bg2 Qd4+ 5 Kh3 Qh4+ 6 Kh2 Qh4+ 7 Bh3 Be5+ and mate quickly follows.

### BADMINTON

## Women may get second chance

FROM RICHARD EATON IN SANDEFJORD, NORWAY

TO avoid his Danish compatriots, England would be happy for a zone semi-final meeting with Sweden, the No 2 seeds, whom they beat at the same stage two years ago in Prague. If they lost, they would get the chance of earning the last place in Hong Kong in a third-place play-off, probably against either Holland or Russia.

However, England will miss Joanne Muggeridge, the architect of the 1996 upset against the Swedes, with two

wins. Muggeridge remains England's highest world-ranked women's singles player, but her quarrel with the team management over fitness, weight and training that led to her ejection from the squad last year is unresolved.

Norway also made a successful protest in the men's Thomas Cup, causing England to lose their first-stage seeding, but the second-stage draw is unaltered, so England's men could face a semi-final against the talented Danes, who hold hopes of becoming the first European team to lift the trophy.

TELEVISION CHOICE

## In the shadow of Del Boy

Cutting Edge: Rogue Males Channel 4, 9.00pm

Dominic Savage, who made that much-loved film *The Complainers* for the last series of *Cutting Edge*, now offers a humorous look at the black, or at least grey, economy. His heroes are men who have failed to make it in the official labour market but have found variously dodgy niches in the unofficial one. The shadow of David Jason's *Del Boy* looms large. Steve and Derek are builders but snare their descriptions. Whedon putting up a wall or plastering or ceiling their incompetence is breathtaking. Alan, who boasts eight children by five different women, makes his living buying and selling camcorders, videos and the like, while Alan is a male stripper. But Ian and Karl, who run a carpet shop, seem to have strayed in from a different film. Their trouble is getting paid. Some of their customers are just awkward, others positively abusive.



Andy Green in Thrust (BBC1, 10.25pm)

Inside Story: Decent Sean BBC1, 9.30pm (Scotland tomorrow 11.15pm)

James Cohen has done much good work for the *Inside Story* strand, notably a study of young drug addicts called *Love on the Needle*. His latest film is also about society's outcasts and it is presented with the same insight, sympathy and refusal to judge. "We may be scum, but we're decent scum" is the cry of Tommy and Crystal, homeless youngsters who live on the streets of London. The one asset is their love for each other. Tommy is helping Crystal to kick her drug habit and rather than giving up on life their aim is to get off the streets and never return. But the obstacles are formidable, not least their own insecurities. They have to head off an attempted family kidnapping. But this is a story of a fortunate and desperate circumstances and you cannot help but hope that Tommy and Crystal come through.

fierce heat of the Jordanian desert. Here Richard Noble, the man behind the project and holder of the current record of 633mph, has assembled a team of 30. Andy Green, a fighter pilot, has been chosen to drive the car. Two jet engines, bought second-hand from the RAF, power the vehicle which weighs ten tonnes and is steered through its rear wheels. But at 540mph, well short of the target, the rear suspension breaks away and the team may have to return home. Meanwhile, the sponsorship money is running out.

Billions Dollar Babe ITV, 10.40pm

Given that she was one of the richest women in the world and died in mysterious circumstances, Doris Duke is an irresistible material for a television documentary. The only child of an American tobacco tycoon, she inherited the family fortune and spent much of a fairly aimless and not very happy life trying to ensure that other people did not. Six years after the estate passed not to the family but to her butler, a semi-literate alcoholic from Donegal. There were suggestions, which this film is glad to repeat but unable to substantiate, that she had been murdered. Perhaps the butler, for once, really did do it, but if so he took the secret to his grave. Essentially it is the old story of great wealth leading to buy happiness, but wonder, perhaps, that she turned to spiritualism. Peter Waymark

The Mission BBC1, 10.25pm

A two-part documentary, concluding tomorrow, chronicles the British attempt on the world land speed record with a car travelling faster than sound. It will still be the story behind it is well worth telling. It begins in the

RADIO CHOICE

Lucifer Matches: The Letters of Charlotte Brontë Radio 4, 2.00pm (FM only)

Charlotte Brontë wrote the sort of frank, from-the-heart letters that drew an interesting comment from her husband, Charles, a comment that supplied the title for this programme: "Arthur says such letters as mine never ought to be kept, they are dangerous matches." They are certainly revealing and have provided a rich source for Juliet Barker, the brilliant biographer of the Brontës, who talks about the context of the letters in this programme. The letters speak in part about the freedom Charlotte gained from using the pseudonym Currer Bell, a bad move in some ways because, as Barker points out, literary critics became obsessed with the gender of the author rather than the quality of the work.

The Dansette Radio 2, 9.30pm

Any programme that evokes an entire era is guaranteed an audience and I imagine that most people who grew up in the 1950s and 1960s will either have owned a Dansette record player or attempted to dance to the sounds of one. Sir Cliff Richard says in this, one of the very few programmes about a machine with genuine sentimental value, that he remembers his with "great affection". But the hard-nosed point about the Dansette was that, beneath the Bakelite and the red lid, it coped remarkably well with the technological challenge presented by an era in which records came in three sizes, had to be played at any one of four speeds and required two types of stylus. The Dansette, for not much money, managed it all. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greuning and Zee Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 In Whyte, 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce 6.30 Steve Lamacq The Evening Session 8.30 Digital Update 8.40 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Cve Warren 4.00 Chris Moyles

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 OH The Shell 7.30am Newsday 7.30 What's News 7.46 The Lab 8.00 News 8.10 Pause for Thought 8.15 International Record 9.00 News: News in German (6:48 only) 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 The Corporate Handbook 9.30 Literature File: The Hill On The Poles 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.00 Newsday 10.28 Screen 11.00 Newsday 11.30 Civilization 12.00 News: 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Health Matters 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newsday 2.00 News: 2.05pm Newsday 2.30 Mediaset 3.00 News: 3.05pm Newsday 3.15 Germany 3.30 Sports Roundup 3.15 Westway 3.30 The Greenfield Collection 4.00 News 4.15 Westway 4.30 The World Today: News in German (6:48 only) 4.48 Britain Today 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Roundup 6.00 Newsday 6.30 One Final: News in German (6:48 only) 7.00 News 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Pause for Thought 7.50 Megarise 8.00 Newsday 8.00 News 8.00 World Business Report: 8.15 Britain Today 8.30 Mediaset 10.00 News: 10.30 The World Today 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.05 Outlook 11.30 Megarise 12.00 Newsday 12.30am The Farming World 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Newsday 1.30 Discovery 2.00 Newsday 2.00 Newsday 2.30am News: 2.30 World Business Report 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 One Final: 4.00 Newsday 4.30 Europe Today 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Europe Today

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Anna Robinson 1.30pm Debbie Thompson 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 James Galway: Encore! 8.00 Newsday 8.20 The Dansette 9.30 Newsday 10.00 Newsday 10.30 Richard Ainsworth 12.05am Steve Macken 3.00 Annie O'Han

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Breakfast with Bailey 8.00 Henry Kelly. Includes the Record of the Week and a recipe for omelette, courtesy of Michael Barry 12.00 Lunchtime Requests Jane Jones introduces listeners' favourite classical pieces 2.00pm Concerto Richard Adlington's guest, and the clarinetist and composer Thea Musgrave talks about her forthcoming 70th birthday 7.30 Performance on 31 America at the Palace. The first of three concerts live from Essex University's Great Hall, introduced by John Bennett. 10.00 News about: 10.10am piano, live (Some Southway Pitching): Toke (Lassus); Joplin (Bethena); Solace; Copland (Variations); 10.15 Hand Quartet; Sancy Burnett talks to the young British pianist and international reputation 8.35 Concert, part two, Copland (Four Gates); Carlisle (plus); Adams (Phylogenesis) 9.20 Postscript: Talking the Walk 9.45 BBC Symphony Orchestra. The first broadcast of last year's first performance of Elgar's Symphony No 5, completed by Antony Payne with the blessing of the Elgar Foundation. 10.00 News: a small audience at the BBC's Media Valley studios. 10.05am Newsday. Richard Cole reports on tonight's premiere in Manchester of Shostakovich's new comedy 11.30 Composer of the Week: Chopin (1) 12.30am Jazz Notes. Digby Falmerhall presents the second part of the concert given by the Alan Elsdon All-Star Jazz Band. 1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 Midday with Mel 2.00pm Ruocco on Five 4.00 Nationwide. Julian Worner presents the day's news and sport 7.00 News Extra. David McNeil with a round-up of the day's news 7.30 The Tuesday Match. Coverage of the night's football, with commentary, reports and goal news 10.00 News: 10.30 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up All Night 6.00 Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

7.00am Chris Evans 10.00 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nicky Attoll 4.00 Richard Price 7.00 Cathy Jones 10.00 Mark Forster 2.00am Richard Porter 5.00 Jeremy Clark 5.00 Jeremy Clark

TALK RADIO

8.30am Krispy Young with Bill Overton 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinklage 7.00 Anna Raeburn 8.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins 5.00 The Early Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor, including Tchaikovsky (The Nutcracker, Act 1, scenes 6-9); Gershwins (Ave, Dalcassiana Maria); Prokofiev (Overture on Hebrew Themes); Tchaikovsky (Eugene Onegin, Waltz); Johann Strauss (son) (Waltz, Arise! Lie); Liszt (Hungarian Fantasy) 9.00 Masterworks, with Peter Hodge. Enescu (Romanian Rhapsody No 1); Mozart, arr. Craig (Fantasia in G minor); Guck (The Puccini Ball (Partita No 1 in B minor)) 10.30 Artist of the Week: James Bowman. James Bowman talks to Joan Bakewell about the history of the countertenor. 11.00 Sound Stories. Richard Baker profiles Maria Curcio, one of the few teenage pianists to become a pupil of Artur Schnabel 12.00 Composer of the Week: Shostakovich 1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. BBC Proms Chamber Music 97. Another chance to hear lunchtime chamber music concerts given at the Victoria and Albert Museum during last year's BBC Proms. Aron (Magyarfalvi, Tomus Parsvgritus); Part (Seven Advent Antiphons); Grainger (Folk song settings) (1) 2.00 The BBC Orchestra. BBC Proms: Harmonic under the stars. Aron (Magyarfalvi, Tomus Parsvgritus); Part (Seven Advent Antiphons); Grainger (Folk song settings) (1) 4.00 News: Romantic Scotland. Linda Omlison introduces a second selection of Scottish romantic songs, performed by Lisa Milne, soprano, and

James MacDougall, tenor, accompanied by Roger Vignoles, piano (1) 4.45 Music Machine, with Tommy Pearson 5.00 In Tune. The Brazilian guitarist Eberto Geronzi is Steve Raiteri's guest, and the clarinetist and composer Thea Musgrave talks about her forthcoming 70th birthday 7.30 Performance on 31 America at the Palace. The first of three concerts live from Essex University's Great Hall, introduced by John Bennett. 10.00 News about: 10.10am piano, live (Some Southway Pitching): Toke (Lassus); Joplin (Bethena); Solace; Copland (Variations); 10.15 Hand Quartet; Sancy Burnett talks to the young British pianist and international reputation 8.35 Concert, part two, Copland (Four Gates); Carlisle (plus); Adams (Phylogenesis) 9.20 Postscript: Talking the Walk 9.45 BBC Symphony Orchestra. The first broadcast of last year's first performance of Elgar's Symphony No 5, completed by Antony Payne with the blessing of the Elgar Foundation. 10.00 News: a small audience at the BBC's Media Valley studios. 10.05am Newsday. Richard Cole reports on tonight's premiere in Manchester of Shostakovich's new comedy 11.30 Composer of the Week: Chopin (1) 12.30am Jazz Notes. Digby Falmerhall presents the second part of the concert given by the Alan Elsdon All-Star Jazz Band. 1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

6.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 6.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Cliff Roblin Ludlow 0171-250 4444 10.00 (FM) News; My Soho Family. Wit and agony aunt Irma Kurtz meets the characters who live up to the name 10.00 (LW) News; The Daily Service 10.15 (LW) On These Days 10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenni Murray and guests 11.20 Medicine Row. Presented by Geoff Watts 12.00 News; You and Yours, with Mark Whittaker 12.25pm Quota, Unquota. Nigel Pease chairs the anecdotal quiz. With Christine Goode, Rob Ashford, Michael White and Terry Wood (1) 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 (FM) Test Match Special, West Indies v England. The third Test from Trinidad. (An optional radio to the fifth and final day's play) 2.00 (FM) News; Lucifer Matches: The Letters of Charlotte Brontë. Extracts read by Sil Thomas. See Choice 2.30 (FM) The Medical Directors: Simon Callow. Richard Baker presents conversations with leading directors. Simon Callow talks about his use of music in productions ranging from *Casualty* and *Coram* Jones in the theatre to operas by Puccini and Mozart on film (6/8) 3.00 (FM) News; The Peterson Show 4.00 (FM) News 4.05 (FM) Kaleidoscope, Paul

Vaughan reads Rupert Thompson's new novel. Soft Plus Fred D'Aguilar reacts from his new poem. 4.45 (FM) Short Story: The Crowslayer, by Paul Hirstberg 5.00 (FM) PM. Presented by Clare Olliver and Chris Lowe 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.30 (LW) Test Match Special. Continued coverage about family life in the 1990s. With Jim Sweeney and Caroline Quentin (1) 7.00 (FM) News 7.05 (FM) The Archers 7.20 (FM) File on 4. Jim Murr examines the Egyptian crackdown on Islamic radicals after the massacre of tourists at Luxor 8.00 (FM) Science Now, with Peter Evans (1) 8.00 (FM) In Living Colour, with Trevor Phillips 9.00 (FM) In Touch, with Peter White 9.30 (FM) Kaleidoscope (1) 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Bookshop, by P Fitzgerald (2/10) 11.00 Mediumwave. A review of the week's media (1) 11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament. A roundup of the day's events in Westminster 11.30 (FM) A Pebble in the Pond. Shamus McDonald talks to Chad Varah, founder of the Samaritans about a profound childhood experience (1/6) (1) 12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Lucky You, by Carl Hesse, abridged by Keith Davill and read by Gary Shaha (2/10) 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE: RADIO 1, FM 87.6-89.8; RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2; RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4; RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.8; LW 185; MW 720; RADIO 5, LW 185; MW 820, 925, 1050; LW 198; LW 198; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am); CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102; VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215; TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McManis.

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WINTER OLYMPICS 48

Canada remain cool as ice to defeat old foes

SPORT

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 17 1998

RUGBY UNION 50

Doctor's orders leave Dallaglio on waiting list



Flurry of wickets for West Indies ensures tense finale to third Test match

England falter in sight of the line

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN PORT OF SPAIN

A TEST series, a tour and the very idea of an England cricket revival hung by a slender thread yesterday...

England A triumph 49 Pakistan inquiry 49

ground has cast upon them seemed all too alive. The rain was unseasonal and unexpected...

The high proportion of holidaying Britons in the sparse fourth-day crowd, however, had convinced themselves...

gone back to work: Port of Spain was reclaimed as British for the day. Day after day, these Queen's Park pitches have baffled and betrayed...

At 58, the stand became the biggest of the match and, well within the opening hour, Lara had retreated on to the defensive...

Stewart now overtook his captain, two cuts for four in a loose over from Walsh completing a satisfying first hour for England...

Benjamin tested reflexes with movement and treacherously low bounce, but the pitch was still not befriending the bowlers...



Benjamin, centre, is powerless to halt the growing authority of Atherton, left, and Stewart during their commanding opening stand. Photograph: Clive Mason/Allsport

favour of spin. A few England supporters performed a premature dance, but the dressing-room balcony remained inscrutable.

Stewart had reached 50, in three hours, with two fours off McLean, but what went through his head when heavy rain drove the players off...

and although, when it came, the England requirement was down to 96, it proved to be the case.

Lara had fiddled with his hair during the break, for an hour using Ambrose and Walsh alternately, an over at a time, from the Pavilion End.

Stewart's scores in two games on this fickle square have been 50, 73, 44 and 83. Just as much as Angus Fraser...

Eighty runs short, England now inevitably found Walsh and Ambrose charging in revived and with only seven runs added, and Hussain still yet to score...

Stewart's scores in two games on this fickle square have been 50, 73, 44 and 83. Just as much as Angus Fraser...

Stewart's scores in two games on this fickle square have been 50, 73, 44 and 83. Just as much as Angus Fraser...

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Times Two

Full scoreboard from Port of Spain showing innings, runs, wickets, and bowling figures for both teams.

City Break Offers advertisement for travel up to 31 Mar, listing destinations like Paris, Prague, Madrid, Barcelona, and Amsterdam with prices.

Down and Across crossword clues for No 1331

Rangers like taste of Advocaat article featuring a photo of a man and text about the club's new manager and sponsorship.

The Times Bookshop advertisement listing new titles and contact information.

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.